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## HIV infection rates still worrying

LUMUT: Some 87,000 people in Malaysia were identified to have been infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), with the average rate of 10 people being infected daily, said Malaysian AIDS Council president Datuk Mohd Zaman Khan.

"The increase in the number of HIV-infected people in the country is very worrying and should be given proper attention.

"Since the first HIV case was reported in 1986, Malaysia was said to have striven to check the spread of the deadly disease (AIDS) but to no avail," he told Bernama after the opening of a seminar and exhibition on HIV/AIDS and Islamic Forum at the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) base, here, yesterday.

He said only in the past few years, had efforts to combat HIV infection in the country shown some positive results.

Mohd Zaman said public perception of people living with HIV/AIDS, however, was still worrying to the extent of causing the HIV carriers to be afraid to come forward to seek treatment.

"I believe public awareness and concern about HIV/AIDS are key to preventing infection and reducing the casualties," he added. —Bernama