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# Increase in HIV cases in Kelantan

**KOTA BAHARU:** Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul is disappointed with the increase in the number of HIV and AIDS patients in Kelantan, said to be the highest in the country, because it tarnishes the state's image as the Corridor of Mecca.

He attributed the situation to youths who did not practise the true teachings of Islam which led them to commit vice, resulting in them to be infected with the dangerous diseases.

"I am disappointed because Kelantan is known as the Corridor of Mecca, with Islamic religious schools everywhere,, but because people do not adhere to the teachings of the religion, this is what happened," he told reporters after opening a national-level seminar on the implementation of Syariah governance in the current context at Balai Islam in Lundang here yesterday.

Nik Aziz said the attitude of the Kelantan people who were fond of seeking entertainment in the bordering country was among the factors which contributed to the spread of the disease.



Nik Aziz

It has been reported in the newspapers that Kelantan recorded the highest number of HIV and AIDS patients in the country last year.

According to the Health Ministry, the ratio of people in Kelantan infected by HIV and AIDS was 28.8: 100,000.

A member of the Malaysia Aids Council board of trustees, Dr Illias Adam Yee, said the number of new HIV infected cases in Kelantan last year was 462 people and 88 people died of AIDS. - Bernama