

Headline **Be a PAL**
 Date **29 Sep 2011**
 MediaTitle **Malaysian Business**
 Section **NEWS**
 Journalist **N/A**
 Frequency **Fortnight**
 Circ / Read **25,000 / 50,000**

Language **English**
 Page No **67**
 Article Size **455 cm²**
 Color **Full Color**
 ADValue **4,956**
 PRValue **14,867**



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THE Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) initiated the Medicine Assistance Scheme in 1998. This Scheme was started with the aim of helping underprivileged Malaysians living with HIV to undergo the Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART) with 'the primary objectives of helping them prolong and improve their quality of life.'

There is a misconception among the public that all those who have been certified



Be a PAL

The Malaysian AIDS Foundation's PAL Scheme is a fund-raising initiative that aims to provide and improve access to second-line HAART medication for underprivileged Malaysians living with HIV.

as being a HIV positive person receive free HAART treatment from the Malaysian Government. The government only supports HAART for mothers confirmed being HIV positive, infants confirmed being HIV positive, persons infected through tainted blood transfusion, healthcare personnel infected through occupational exposure and government personnel. Many underprivileged Malaysians (with a combined household income of under RM3,000) living with HIV who do not fall into these categories have to pay for the HAART medication themselves which can cost nearly RM1,000 per month.

Realizing the plight of these underprivileged Malaysians, MAF decided to rebrand its Medicine Assistance Scheme to PAL (Positive Audacious Living) Scheme with the aim to provide and improve access to second-line HAART medication for underprivileged Malaysians Living with HIV. The re-branding exercise of the Medicine Assistance Scheme to PAL Scheme was carried out using a grant by Abbott Laboratories.


The PAL Scheme is a unique fund-raising initiative that was launched in July this year with the aim of attracting corporate sponsorship to the PAL Scheme and to encourage the Malaysian public to generously donate to the PAL Scheme. Faizal Tahir, a singer/songwriter and a Red Ribbon Celebrity Supporter, is the ambassador spokesperson for the PAL Scheme.

During the launch of the PAL Scheme, Professor Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Chairman of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation, explained that since the launch of the Medical Assistance Scheme, which is largely funded by the MAF, about RM3.3 million worth of funds have been disbursed for the programme and close to 60 Malaysians living with HIV have been provided with HAART. 'However, with our limited financial resources and also due to other various commitments, there has not been much space for the Scheme's expansion. We believe the only way forward for it to be self-sustaining is through donations anchored by corporate



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She hopes that with the newly overhauled PAL Scheme, campaigns 'will be able to increase our appeal to corporate sponsors and the general public in order to obtain the means to expand this scheme to improve the lives of a substantial number of Malaysians living with HIV. All contributions towards the PAL Scheme, no matter how big or small, will indeed make a life-saving difference.' 

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 CORPORATE ORGANISATIONS THAT ARE INTERESTED TO SUPPORT THE PAL SCHEME CAN DO SO BY CONTACTING THE MALAYSIAN AIDS FOUNDATION AT 03-4045 6033. MAF IS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS FOR ANY FUNDRAISING COLLABORATION THAT CAN BENEFIT THE PAL SCHEME DIRECTLY.