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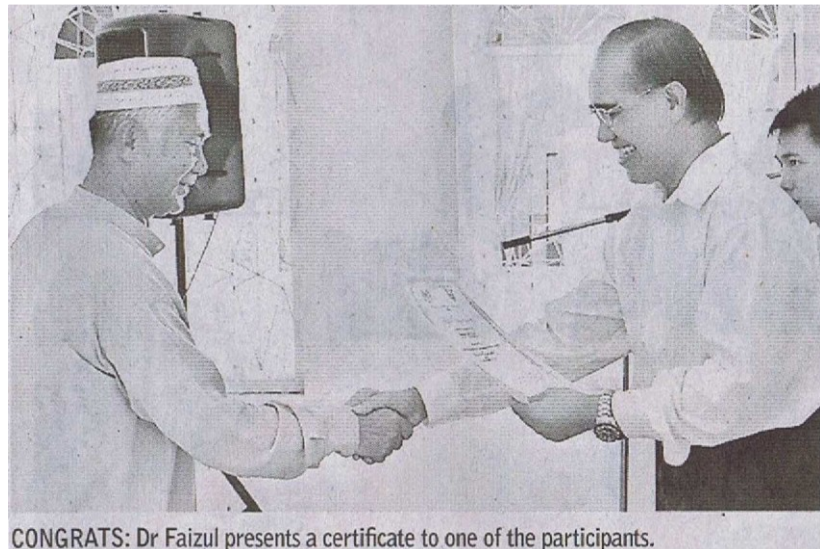
MIRI: Most Muslims do not take necessary precautions when mortifying dead bodies, especially of those who died due to high-risk diseases such as AIDS.

Saying many Muslims were not aware of the danger of infection, Miri Divisional Health Office head Dr Faizul Mansoor hoped that the seminar organised by Ministry of Health on how to handle dead bodies safely would create such awareness.

"Most people are unaware and do not even know if the person that they are handling has AIDS or not. It's difficult to tell," Dr Faizul said when asked by The Borneo Post after the seminar held at Masjid At-Taqwa here Wednesday.

Hence, he said, it was important that they took precautionary measures such as wearing gloves and water-resistant aprons to protect them from infection.

"They need to understand



CONGRATS: Dr Faizul presents a certificate to one of the participants.

that this disease is transferable especially when there is wound and saliva," he added.

When asked about the statistics, he said a total of seven people died of AIDS in Miri in 2010, while five last year.

"This year, six people died because of HIV in Miri alone,"

he said.

According to him, the number will continue to rise, which warranted serious attention from members of the public to learn how to handle those who died because of the disease.

A total of 45 participants took part in the seminar.