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NEWS



World Aids Day awareness convoy

EVERY year on the first day of December, the world comes together in the face of a growing public health concern that has affected more than 34 million lives worldwide. The World AIDS Day is a celebration that provides an opportunity for all individuals, communities and leaders to ensure that human rights are protected and creating a world free from negative impact of HIV/AIDS are met. Beginning in 2011, World AIDS Day celebrations across the globe carry the theme "Getting to Zero: Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, Zero AIDS Related Deaths".

In an effort to increase awareness of the public towards Getting To Zero especially for the younger generation, the Health Department of Selangor organised a convoy of motorcycles and cars on 2nd December 2012, from the Botanic Health Clinic in Bukit Tinggi, Kelang. The convoy of about 70 motorcycles and a motorcade of cars and official vehicles of the Health Department were flagged-off by Dr Ismail Mohd Lasa, Kuala Langat District Medical Officer. They then headed towards the Day Market at Shah Alam Stadium to distribute flyers on AIDS awareness, before heading towards Masjid Kota Damansara for the launch ceremony. The launch was officiated by Dr Hj Zainuddin Abd Wahab, Deputy Director of Public Health, Selangor.

The first case of HIV in Malaysia was reported in 1986. As of 2011, Malaysia has seen a cumulative



total of 94,841 HIV cases, of which 17,686 progressed to AIDS. At least 14,986 AIDS related deaths have been reported, making the number of people living with HIV in Malaysia to 79,855 persons.

New HIV cases have been on a steady decline over the past decade. From a peak of 6,978 cases in 2002, the 3,479 new cases reported in 2011 were approximately half of what was reported ten years ago, with an average of 9 new cases reported each day. Lately, new cases of sexually transmitted HIV have been consistently outnumbering those via the drug-injecting route. In 2011, 55% of new HIV cases

were transmitted sexually (hetero and homo/bisexual transmission collectively), compared to 38% that were reported in drug users. This trend is potentially indicative of the future HIV epidemiological landscape of the country – one that will be 'driven' by sexual transmission.

The World AIDS Day 2012 celebrations for Selangor would culminate at Dataran Morib on 15-16th December 2012. Various activities would be held during the weekend, including motorbike and car shows, along with display booths of various organisations and government departments. All are welcome.

