

Headline	Gov't committed to pursuing zero AIDS-related deaths		
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## Gov't committed to pursuing zero AIDS-related deaths

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government remains committed to pursuing zero AIDS-related deaths, including expanding screening to detect and provide early treatment for HIV cases, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam.

He said among the measures the government had taken was addressing vertical transmission, that is, implementing HIV screening and antiretroviral (ARV) treat-

ment for pregnant mothers with infant antiretroviral prophylaxis treatment for newborn infants.

In addition to addressing HIV, prophylaxis treatment is also effective in preventing other infections like tuberculosis, pneumocystis pneumonia and others.

“Since the programme was implemented, the rate of pregnant women diagnosed with HIV is very low at 0.02 per cent to 0.07

per cent while the rate of babies infected with HIV through vertical transmission is less than two percent.

“With this treatment, we can see a decrease in deaths over the last five years and it is expected that the number of deaths will continue to decline with expanded access to treatment,” he said in conjunction with World AIDS Day 2013, yesterday. – Bernama