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Most new HIV cases involve youths: MP

Mardinah Jikur

SANDAKAN: About 3,438 new HIV cases were recorded last year and of this number, 31 per cent involved youths aged 13 to 19.

Batu Sapi MP, Datuk Linda Tsen said AIDS is the second main cause of death in the world for those between 20 to 24.

In 2002, about 9 per cent from those infected comprises women and in year 2012, about 21 per cent of women were infected with the HIV virus,

Tsen said this while officiating at the World AIDS Day (Sandakan level) at the tamu compound, here, recently.

"The Philippine Embassy is focused on uplifting the welfare of Filipinos in Sabah and regularly dispatches its personnel on consular missions there.

"Embassy consular mobile teams have been to Lahad Datu, Tawau, Semporna, Kota Kinabalu, Kudat, Keningau, Kota Marudu and Sandakan in Sabah and to Labuan as well as Bintulu

and Miri in Sarawak this year.

"Most of the passports processed during these missions were already received by the applicants," it said.

"The danger of HIV among youths should not be taken lightly," she said. Awareness campaigns have also been carried out by the Ministry of Health and associations to reduce the new HIV cases as well as death cases related to AIDS.

In relation to this, the HIV virus spread in the State involves sexual intercourse (90 per cent) followed by vertical transmission from mother to child and a small number have been infected through needle sharing.

"Proper steps should be taken to prevent and reduce such cases."

"The World Health Organisation (WHO) also considers HIV a global problem that should be dealt with effectively. Tsen urged people to advise each other to live healthy lives and stay away from negative activities.



Linda (third right), Khalil (third left) and others releasing the pigeons.