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# RM2.8mil to upgrade shelters

## AIDS council, Pengasih receive funds to improve homes

By **QISHIN TARIQ**

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Two non-governmental organisations will get to upgrade their shelter homes through an RM2.8mil allocation from the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry.

The two organisations are Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) and Pengasih, an organisation which provides holistic approach in substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation.

The fund would help the two NGOs hire staff, set up more facilities or repair existing homes, said minister Datuk Seri Sharizat Abdul Jalil.

"Caring for marginalised members of society is a shared responsibility and these NGOs have been invaluable in improving the quality of life for these groups," she said.

The allocation under the Low-Income Households NKRA would provide RM2mil to 19 MAC-run shelter homes and RM800,000 for eight Pengasih homes.

"While the ministry gave RM2mil to MAC last year, we have included Pengasih in the fund this year as they are also working with a similar target group," she said during the cheque presentation ceremony in Bukit Tunku, here yesterday.

MAC president Tan Sri Mohd Zaman Khan said the council's target was to have at least one shelter home per state that would be able to serve all, regardless of gender or age.

"Although some states have homes, they are only equipped to handle certain groups like women's shelter or rehabilitation centre for men.

"Shelter homes need to be upgraded so they can assist men, women and children.

"Another issue is location. While there are homes in Pahang, most are in Kuantan.

"We suggest homes be opened in Bentong and Raub to make it more accessible to those in other parts of the state," said Mohd Zaman.

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**Funds for good:** Shahrizat presenting the cheques to the MAC, represented by its president Mohd Zaman (in red shirt), and Pengasih, represented by its president-founder Yunus Pathi (second from right) in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.