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MAC needs additional funds to reach out to people

KUANTAN: The Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) requires additional funds to reach out to more individuals in need of help, said its president Datuk Dr Raj Karim.

The MAC's current annual operating budget is RM15mil.

According to Dr Raj, the council was negotiating with the Health Ministry and the Government for a bigger allocation.

"The Government is already providing us an allocation but it is not enough to run the programmes in a comprehensive way.

"There are still so many people we cannot reach out to," she said after accepting a donation of gas cylinders from NGC Energy at the Casa Harapan shelter here yesterday.

Dr Raj said MAC was looking into getting more equitable allocation to suit the needs of the community and for its programmes to run at its optimum.

"If we have money that can just scratch the surface, it is not good enough because we need funds to run the whole comprehensive range of care needed," she said.

She said the council was currently getting input from partner organisations to prepare a paper to be submitted to the Government on the budget needed.

During the ceremony, NGC sponsored 1,008 units of 14kg cooking gas cylinders to 22 shelter homes managed by MAC.

The collaboration between MAC and NGC was in its fourth consecutive year.