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## Rosmah praises ministry and NGOs

**KUALA TERENGGANU:** The Health Ministry and non-governmental organisations have played a major role in significantly reducing HIV/AIDS cases in the past 10 years.

The Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor said Malaysia was fortunate to have proactive NGOs, such as the Malaysian AIDS Council and AIDS Foundation, which greatly helped to curb the epidemic, assisted sufferers and educated the public through awareness campaigns.

"I laud these highly courageous, compas-

sionate, caring and patient volunteers for their tireless efforts," she said at the opening of the national-level 2013 World AIDS Day celebrations at the Gong Badak Stadium yesterday.

She said although 90% of the number comprised men, the figure had plunged since 2003 with women representing 21% of new cases in 2011, compared to 5% a decade ago.

"In this context, the Health Ministry has implemented various initiatives to reduce the rate of infection including prevention programmes," she said. — Bernama