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70% OF HIV SUFFERERS ARE MUSLIMS

KUALA TERENGGANU: More than 70 % of the 87,710 HIV/AIDS sufferers in the country are Muslims, Malaysian AIDS Council vice-president Datuk Zaman Khan said yesterday. As such, the celebration for this year's World AIDS Day would emphasise efforts to enhance the participation of and awareness on AIDS among Muslims. He said what was more worrying was a report by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on AIDS which states that nine Malaysians are infected with the disease everyday. Also of concern is the spread of the disease among women, from 9.5% in 2000 to 20% last year, he said, adding that the main cause of women being infected with HIV/AIDS in 2000 was drug addiction. However, lately, it had been attributed to heterosexual sex (30%). -- Bernama