

Introduce HIV education in schools – Marina

KUALA LUMPUR: Writer-cum-activist Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir has proposed the introduction of comprehensive education in schools to provide knowledge that can lead to a behavioural change to reduce the spread of HIV/Aids.

She said education played a vital role in reducing the stigma, prejudice and discrimination against people living with HIV.

An effective HIV/Aids education could also help prevent new infections by equipping individuals with the knowledge to protect themselves from becoming infected with the virus, she said.

"I have been advocating HIV/Aids education since I was the president of the Malaysian Aids

Council.

"The lack of education leads to fear and stigmatisation of people living with HIV, fuelled by misunderstanding and misinformation," she said during the U-SchoS' Leadership Lecture Series (ULLS) 2014, here yesterday.

The U-SchoS' Leadership Lecture Series (ULLS) 2014 was hosted by the UCSI Scholars' Club (U-SchoS), a club formed by scholarship recipients at UCSI University.

Marina noted that each year, there were more and more new HIV infections, which showed that people either were not getting the message about the dangers of HIV or were unable

or unwilling to act on it.

Biologically, she said, women were more likely to become infected with HIV through unprotected heterosexual intercourse than men.

Earlier, Marina also shared her leadership experiences and challenges working for non-governmental organisations with 500 students from 28 universities and colleges at the Leadership Lecture Series.

She said knowledge and communication skills were extremely important for a leader since a leader should take the responsibility in turning vision into reality, especially in response to HIV/Aids. - Bernama



Writer-cum-activist Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir sharing her leadership experiences and challenges working for non-governmental organisations at the Leadership Lecture Series. - Bernama photo