



# Warkah RIBEN MERAH



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## Life Sdn Bhd 5 – I'm Positive Goes to Johor Bahru



Ten individuals infected or affected by HIV and AIDS had stepped on stage, sharing their personal stories. They came from all walks of lives but they shared one thing in common – they wanted to inspire people. Some have been tested positive while others have partners, family or friends who have tested positive. Some are married with children while others are still in search of that special someone. Life Sdn Bhd is a hugely popular series founded by Dato' Faridah Merican in year 2004. The beauty of the series lies in its stripped down format where actors as well as non-actors share true stories on stage on issues that affect us living in Malaysia ranging from social, political, service, family, love and love lost. Taking off from the last Life Sdn Bhd performance in 2007 which touched on breast cancer, the performance sheds light on another important issue – the HIV and AIDS epidemic. For many years, Johor has topped the charts of HIV infection in Malaysia. From 1986 to 2009, Johor alone has accumulated a thunderous number of 14,600 cases. Worse, stigma and discrimination are prevalent. Many are shunned and marginalised by ignorance and prejudice. Hence, it was timely to have a creative way of communicating HIV and AIDS to the public of Johor.



Yang Maha Mulia Raja Zarith Sofiah Binti Almarhum Sultan Idris



Ahmad Zakii Anwar, the President of the Intan Life Zone Welfare Society added "I salute the brave individuals who were willing to go on stage and publicly share their stories with us, and of course to the director, Dato' Faridah Merican, for putting this amazing production together. Too much have been swept under the carpet with regards to HIV and AIDS. The shame, stigma and discrimination it brings affects those living with it relentlessly. With this play, we hope for an increased understanding and awareness of HIV and AIDS among the public and that people living with it can lead a relatively normal life and play an active and productive role in society." **Life Sdn Bhd 5 – I'm Positive Goes to Johor** was played on the 6, 7 & 8 August 2010 at Wisma JOTIC, Johor Bahru, Johor. For you who missed this piece of heart-warming production, learn a little bit of the ten individuals here: <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=427024512864&ref=mf>



Their stories on love, life and most important of all, living, are honest and heart-warming



Mesyuarat perbincangan Pelan Strategik Kebangsaan 2011-2015 sedang rancak dijalankan. Diharapkan agar pelan 5 tahun ke hadapan ini akan mengurangkan lagi penularan HIV di kalangan rakyat Malaysia amnya. Pelan Strategik Kebangsaan 2011-2015 akan bertumpu kepada masyarakat terpinggir dan mereka yang berisiko tinggi terdedah kepada jangkitan HIV – pengguna dadah, pekerja seks, mak nyah dan lelaki yang mengamalkan seks sesama jenis – sejajar unjuran statistik Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia dan World Health Organization bagi Malaysia.

Saya juga berharap agar program-program lain yang amat diperlukan di negara ini akan dapat diperluaskan. Sebagai contoh, pembelajaran *sexual reproductive health* di sekolah-sekolah, program pengurangan kemudahan di penjara-penjara, perubahan *second line antiretrovirals*, dan mempermudah akses kepada terapi gantikan metadon di seluruh negara. Pelan Strategik Kebangsaan 2011-2015 perlu dilihat secara menyeluruh selaras dengan epidemik HIV yang melibatkan pelbagai golongan ketika ini.

Saya ingin mengucapkan jutaan terima kasih kepada barisan 'Selebriti Sokongan Riben Merah' bagi sesi 2010/2011: Dato' Siti Nurhaliza, Faizal Tahir, Dayang Nurfaizah, Owen Yap, Fahrin Ahmad, Datin Paduka Umie Aida, Anantha, Uthaya, Winnie K, Kenchana Devi, Shah Shamsiri, Zainal Alam Kadir dan Joey G untuk sumbangan mereka kepada Majlis AIDS Malaysia

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