



VISIT BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS CROWN PRINCESS METTE-MARIT OF NORWAY TO SHELTER HOMES FOR MALAYSIAN CHILDREN AND WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV.

Kuala Lumpur, 29 May 2013 - UNAIDS Ambassador of Goodwill, Her Royal Highness Princess Mette-Marit of Norway has visited the shelter home for children and women affected by HIV located in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur earlier today.

During her visit, Crown Princess Mette-Marit was met by the Chairman of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation, Professor Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman who took her on a guided tour of the shelter facility and briefed her about the response of Malaysian civil societies to the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

“ Malaysian AIDS Council is deeply touched by Her Royal Highness’ show of solidarity with the plight of People Living With HIV. Her presence today sends strong message about the need to fight HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. ” remarked Professor Adeeba.

Crown Princess Mette-Marit then spent some times entertaining the shelter home residences, comprising 15 children and 6 single mothers. She took part in the children face-painting session and was seen chit-chatting with the children and women over afternoon tea.

Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway has served as Goodwill Ambassador for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) since October 2006. The Crown Princess has an extensive international network in the HIV/AIDS sphere, and has assisted UNAIDS in its strategic activities to involve local youth organisations around the world in combatting the spread of the epidemic.

Shelter care by MAC provides Malaysians living with HIV, particularly those who are bereft of family care and support, with a residential setting conducive for emotional and physical well-being and development. In 2012, a total of 620 people living with or made vulnerable by HIV benefitted from services delivered through these shelters, including nursing and palliative care, medical referrals, treatment literacy and adherence programmes, as well as emotional and spiritual counseling. The day to day operation of shelter homes under MAC are fully funded by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia (KPWKM) under the 1AZAM initiative.

[END]



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

ABOUT THE MALAYSIAN AIDS COUNCIL

The Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) was established in 1992 to serve as an umbrella organisation to support and coordinate the efforts of organisations working on HIV/AIDS issues in Malaysia. MAC, in partnership with government agencies, private sector and international organisations, ensures a committed and effective response by NGOs working on HIV/AIDS issues in Malaysia. MAC, comprising the Secretariat and its Partner Organisations, work together as a team to provide nationwide coverage and serve as the common voice for the community. Besides coordinating and streamlining programmes with its Partner Organisations, the MAC Secretariat also provides these organisations with the necessary training, funds and other resources to implement effective HIV/AIDS programmes within various communities in Malaysia. For more information on MAC, kindly log on to its dedicated website, www.mac.org.my

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, KINDLY CONTACT THE MEDIA & COMMUNICATION TEAM OF MAC.

Ameera Abi
Azahemy Abdullah

+6016-4146400 | meera@mac.org.my
+6016-6465874 | azahemy@mac.org.my