



# Warkah RIBEN MERAH



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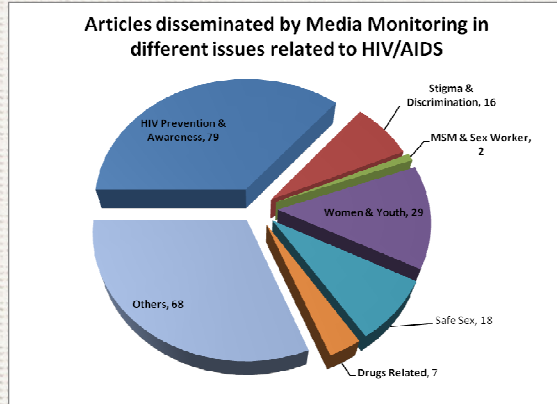
## Media Monitoring for First Quarter of 2010

Media Monitoring of the Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) Resource Centre collected 219 HIV/AIDS related articles that were published in the printed media in the first quarter of the year 2010. These articles were then uniquely classified based on the central themes or issues depicted, such as prevention and awareness, stigma and discrimination, and safe sex. The issue that received the most coverage was HIV prevention and awareness which constituted a third of the articles collected. This was followed by the 29 articles centring on women and youth, and issues of safer sex practices and stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS garnered a considerable amount of attention with 18 and 16 articles published respectively. The debate on the implementation of sex education in schools dominated the 68 other articles related to HIV/AIDS (see chart, classified as "Others").

A majority of the above mentioned articles, especially those addressing stigma and discrimination were published in conjunction with events organised by the Malaysian AIDS Foundation, MAC or its Partner Organisations. Articles on women and youth mostly discussed efforts of college and university students in launching HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns.

While the HIV epidemic in Malaysia is concentrated in the most-at-risk populations (MARP's), articles highlighting the plight of these MARP's were scarce in the first quarter of 2010. For instance, only seven articles on drug use and other drug-related issues such as the harm reduction programme were published. MSM and sex work issues also received extremely minimal media attention with only two articles published.

This Media Monitoring exercise indicates that in the first quarter of 2010, at least one article that explicitly tackled an HIV/AIDS related issue was published in any given printed media every week. While this helps create greater awareness on HIV/AIDS in the general public, advocacy efforts for increased visibility of unbiased responsible journalism on issues affecting MARP's should be the next step in promoting better understanding of the local HIV epidemic.



## Intan Life Zone Welfare Society



Intan Life Zone Welfare Society (ILZ) was founded in 2003 by Abrahan Prathap and Ahmad Zakii Anwar with the aim to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities associated with HIV infection amongst street-based communities namely the drug users and the homeless. They embarked on small-scale self-initiated activities during the early years of the foundation of ILZ by providing food to the homeless and reaching out to drug users on the

streets of Johor Bahru. The organisation, which is currently headed by Ahmad Zakii Anwar himself, has a strong representation of members of the local community in its committee. After seven years since its foundation, ILZ now has a staff of 33 full-time workers including programme managers, outreach workers, medical officers, cooks, and counsellors among others, who synergistically ensure its smooth day-to-day operations. A large number of these staff members comprises individuals living with HIV and former drug users who have successfully graduated from the drug rehabilitation programme.

Programmes that are currently undertaken by ILZ include the Needle and Syringe Exchange Programme (NSEP), Life Zone Drug Rehabilitation Programme, and the Dignity Homes for Men and Women. A bulk of the work behind these programmes is focused on providing treatment, care and support services for people living with HIV (PLHIV); in particular, addressing the needs of PLHIV's in adhering to the strict anti-retroviral treatment regime. These efforts are made possible with the support of and strong working relationships with government stakeholders such as the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM), Prison, National Anti Drug Agency (AADK), Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat, Jabatan Agama Negeri Johor, Hospital Sultanah Aminah, Hospital Sultan Ismail, and Hospital Permai.

One of the greatest successes of this organisation is the opening of an NSEP site in Kluang in the year 2008. Other success stories include events that were organised at state level such as the World AIDS Day and International AIDS Memorial Day (IAMD) involving college and university students and other government agencies. In particular, the IAMD event in 2008 held at Pusat Islam Iskandar Johor was graced with the presence of Guest of Honor, Her Royal Highness Raja Zarith Sofia (now the Sultanah Of Johor). Within the NSEP framework, ILZ was one of the pioneer NSEP sites and was awarded the NGO of the Year title by the Ministry of Health in 2008. ILZ NSEP sites were also selected as the model training sites for NSEP-centric NGO's from other states. These successes are largely attributed to the commitment and dedication of the onsite staff who are mostly recovering drug users themselves who are capable of disseminating information and commodities in a manner that is accessible to the community.



Semakin rancak permohonan Malaysia untuk *Global Fund R10* diperdebatkan, diolah dan digubal, semakin jelas aktiviti-aktiviti pencegahan perlu dilipatgandakan oleh agensi-agensi kerajaan, NGO dan sektor swasta. Setelah lebih dua dekad HIV menular di negara ini, penjangkitan di kalangan golongan pengguna dadah secara suntikan (IDU) masih kekal faktor utama epidemik ini mapan di Malaysia. Program pertukaran jarum suntikan (NSEP) hanya diperkenalkan pada tahun 2006, namun keberkesanannya sudah dapat dibuktikan pada peringkat akar umbi. Oleh sebab itu, keputusan CCM Malaysia untuk menumpukan permohonan *Global Fund R10* secara khusus terhadap program berteraskan IDU disambut baik pelbagai pihak.

Sungguhpun begitu, golongan pekerja seks wanita dan mak nyah yang juga menampakkan peningkatan jangkitan HIV (kadar prevalens sekitar 10%) tidak diabaikan daripada permohonan *Global Fund R10*. Perluasan program-program pencegahan perlu dilaksanakan dengan segera ke semua bandar utama di seluruh negara, premis tertutup dan jaringan internet.

Bulan April yang lalu juga buat julung-julung kalinya menyaksikan pameran dan lawatan rasmi Majlis AIDS Malaysia ke Parlimen dilangsungkan. Acara ini bertujuan untuk memperkenalkan visi dan misi Majlis AIDS Malaysia kepada ahli-ahli Parlimen. Semoga usaha advokasi bersama-sama Parlimen berterusan dan kukuh.

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