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Title : Grassroots organisations could play bigger role in increasing HIV awareness

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SINGAPORE : Grassroots organisations could play a bigger role, especially in terms of increasing awareness of HIV in the community.

Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zainul Abidin Rasheed on Saturday said cooperation between different organisations could provide a good synergy in reaching out and spreading the message.

And through an integrated and holistic approach, such partnership will help address gaps between the knowledge and attitudes of the community towards HIV.

Mr Zainul, who is also MP for Aljunied GRC, was speaking at the Fiesta Carnival organised by the Health Promotion Board, Malay Activity Executive Committees for three constituencies and Action for AIDS.

The carnival is first of such collaborations and will head to Woodlands Constituency (Sembawang GRC) and Aljunied-Hougang Constituency (Aljunied GRC) over the next two weekends.

Mr Zainul said: "This will, in particular, ensure a greater reach and will ensure also a greater awareness on the part of the community, because AIDS is a problem which is fraught with misconceptions and misunderstandings. So this project will bring about greater awareness and better understanding of the issue.

"One important consideration is that when people are faced with AIDS, they need the support of the family, friends and also the public, and when people have the right information, they could play a positive role in helping to overcome this problem together." - CNA/ms

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