



which is intrinsically linked to the overall national development of any country, from  
state at the basic societal structure, as expressed in the family, to the nation.

500 million ringgit, or approximately 137 million US dollars, has been allocated for this period. We recognize that efforts to contain the spread of HIV have to be collaborative between, and within, the government and non-governmental sectors. As part of the synergised effort, the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development actively advocates the importance of incorporating gender perspectives in HIV/AIDS policy formulation and programme implementation. A special committee of the National Advisory Council on Women to address the feminisation of HIV/AIDS has also been established.

9. The biological vulnerability of the female makes it more important that both men and women take equal responsibility in preventing the spread of HIV among women. Unfortunately, in many countries, sex education is still a taboo subject, hindering the Government's effort in educating both men and women on safe sex

particularly on the use of condoms. Even in my own country, the Government's effort

Mr. Chairperson,

13. At the further confluence of the advancement of women and HIV/AIDS, awareness programmes on HIV/AIDS are being implemented in schools as well as in the National Service Programme. The Healthy Programme without AIDS for Youth (PROSTAR) is conducted to empower youths to become peer educators who disseminate HIV/AIDS information while promoting healthy lifestyle practices. The National Service Programme involving 21.4% of secondary school leavers nationwide generally (approximately 140,000 young people) represents a unique opportunity to

ensure that they are equipped with the necessary information, awareness and ability

to make informed decisions regarding HIV/AIDS.