

Great need for awareness on paedophilia, porn threats

NST 18-12-2017 2

By DK RYNI QAREENA

KOTA KINABALU: There is a great urgency to raise the awareness on the rising threats of paedophilia and pornography.

The two social ills still lack attention in the society, said Minister of Community Development and Consumer Affairs, Datuk Jainab Ahmad Aiyid.

(Paedophilia is a mental disorder of adults who experience primary or exclusive sexual desire towards prepubescent children. These adults or adolescent also possess strong and repetitive sexual drive and fantasy on children generally under the age of 13 years old.)

“Although these offences are still considered new in Malaysia, it should not be a reason for the society’s ignorance over the malicious crime.

“This is an issue that has been raised in our community through exposures on social medias; more surprisingly, people in our country contribute to the increase of the crime,” she said at the one-day “Threats of Paedophilia and Pornography: Is our children safe?” seminar held yesterday.

The seminar was orga-



(From left) Mingu, Myrna, Che Asmah and Siti Zainab at the opening ceremony of the seminar on paedophilia and pornography.

nized by Pertubuhan Ikram Malaysia (IKRAM). Jainab’s speech was delivered by Myrna Jimenez, the deputy director of Sabah Women’s Affairs Department (Jhewa).

Jainab said that the present era of a world without boundaries not only enables the public to access issues concerning paedophilia and pornography but also opens up a platform to voice their views and opinions.

Among the general com-

ments pointed out by people are to impose fines and punishments on offenders apart from giving these offenders second chances in rehabilitation.

“This shows that our community has not fully comprehended the true essence of paedophilia and pornography and the implications on children.

“What we need to grasp is that the victims are children and the predators are adults.

These innocent children are manipulated, taken advantage on and preyed upon by adults.

“What would it be like if these children are our relatives; our neighbours; our own?” posed Jainab.

According to Jainab, the seminar was timely due to the rising concern, with Malaysia recently setting up a court to hear exclusively crimes of such nature.

“We need to call upon

more participants so that the smart sharing of knowledge on paedophilia and pornography can be spread among bigger audiences.

“I believe there are many who are still not aware of these threats to our children. Thus, please make full use of this opportunity to learn about paedophilia and pornography so that the knowledge you have acquired can be shared,” she said.

She called for more such programme to be organized in other districts in Sabah as well since the issue is universal, and not limited to any race or religion.

The seminar which was jointly collaborated with Jhewa and supported by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Faculty of Medicine and Health Science saw participants from government agencies, parent-teacher associations and university students among others.

Also present were head of the women’s wing of IKRAM Malaysia, Datin Paduka Che Asmah Ibrahim, head of IKRAM Malaysia Sabah Datuk Dr. Hj. Mingu Hj. Jumaan and head of IKRAM Malaysia Sabah women’s wing Siti Zainab Bakar.