Sarawak Women for Women Society

July 1996
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CPL NEW VOLUNTEERS
20 JULY 1996
2.00 PM
AT THE D.L.
PLEASE COME AND WELCOME THE NEW
GROUP.

White Elephant Stall
Salvation Army Open Day
3) 30 August 1996
Please collect "junk" items for the stall and
volunteer to help run it on the day.

W. I. SEMINAR ON "THE FAMILY"
18 SEPTEMBER 1996
HILTON HOTEL
SWWS TO PERFORM SKIT
ANGIE TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR

SWWS chairing
Kuching meeting with
Malaysian Aids Council
31 22 July 1996
Telang Usan Hotel
Groups: Sex education the answer

By NANCY CHIN and CHAU PAO LING

PETALING JAYA: Women’s groups want the Government to step up comprehensive sex education instead of meting out punishment for unmarried mothers who abandon their babies.

“There is no point in punishing them after what they have done when we didn’t inform them about the consequences of having sex beforehand,” said spokesperson for All Women’s Action Society (Awam) Zaiton Mohd Naim.

She said the authorities must recognise the fact that young people need information on sex to enable them to decide before engaging in sex and getting unwanted consequences.

“The relevant authorities should not be afraid to be seen as condoning sex education if it is for the good of society,” she said.

Tenaganita director Irene Fernandez said the lack of sex education and support from the community were reasons why babies were abandoned.

“Besides understanding how their body functions through sex education, the society must also understand that some of these girls were victimised by circumstances,” she said.

She also said that the increasing number of abandoned babies was a reflection of the society’s lack of responsibility towards the young.

The Social Welfare Department, meanwhile, is appealing to unmarried mothers to contact the welfare officers if they need help.

Its deputy director-general Jazari Abdul Wahid said the department had 2,175 professional welfare officers in about 100 centres.

“They can be assured of confidentiality,” he said.