

Nada : Number of female drug addicts up by nearly 30pc

24 February 2018

NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG AGENCY

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SEREMBAN: The number of female drug addicts has increased nearly 30 per cent, or 208.

National Anti-Drug Agency (Nada) director-general Datuk Dr Abd Halim Mohd Hussin said yesterday 948 new female drug addicts were identified last year, up from the 740 detected the previous year, an increase of 0.3 per cent from 2015.

He said the youngest addict was 17, with most of the women aged between 20 and 40.

"Despite the increase, the number of women involved in drug use is low.

"However, we need to take this matter seriously because we don't want the number to rise.

"More women are smoking these days, and this could be one of the reasons more women are getting involved in drugs."

Halim said this after the launch of an anti-drug programme.



Datuk Dr Abd Halim Mohd Hussin

He said Nada had identified other factors which could have led to an increase in the number of female users, including easy access to drugs, peer pressure, lifestyle and a lack of willpower.

As such, he said, support from society and agencies were needed so that the number of drug addicts could be reduced.

Halim said a multiagency operation between Feb 9 and yesterday at 25 bus terminals, held in conjunction with the Chinese New Year celebrations, saw six bus drivers detained for drug abuse.

Halim also said 2,325 drivers were also checked.

"This is a 40 per cent drop compared with last year, where 10 drivers tested positive for drugs.

"(While this is a positive outcome), it shows that there are still bus drivers who abuse drugs, so we will continue with the checks."