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**KOTA KINABALU:** An 18% increase in drug addicts last year has sparked a call to intensify the war on drugs.

The Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF) executive council member Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said drugs remained Malaysia's number one enemy and called on them to play an active role in making Malaysia a drug-free country.

"Last year, the number of drug addicts was recorded at 25,992, in which 18,440 were new addicts. Of the total number, male drug addicts made up 24,926, while 996 were female drug addicts," he told reporters after attending the

Sunday Family Ride programme yesterday.

With about 80% of drug addicts aged between 13 and 40, Lee said there was an urgent need for the public to combat the menace together.

He also called on family members, especially parents, to get involved in their children's lives and monitor their activities to ensure that they do not fall victim to drug abuse.

Lee also noted that Penang, Kelantan and Kedah recorded the highest number of drug addicts at 3,884; 3,700; and 2,655 respectively, while Putrajaya recorded the lowest number with 38 drug addicts last year. - Bernama