

14-year-old drug users and sellers

KELANTAN DRUG CRISIS

14-YEAR-OLD DRUG USERS AND SELLERS

280 students from 31 hotspot schools test positive for drugs, says Nada

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THE National Anti-Drugs Agency (Nada) has found that students as young as 14 are involved in drug abuse in Kelantan.

Nada director-general Datuk Dr Abd Halim Mohd Hussin said the agency believed that drug abuse among students in Kelantan was a serious problem.

"The recent headlines on students' involvement in drug abuse in the country are alarming and we (the agency) have found students in Kelantan aged 14 and above who have taken drugs.

"Most of them take designer drugs like amphetamine, known locally as 'pil kuda' or 'Yaba', as the pills can be easily obtained from a neighbouring country," he said after opening the "Masih Ada Yang Sayang" programme at Pondok Dakwah near Kampung

Paloh here yesterday.

Halim said based on statistics up to Aug 13, 280 students from the 31 hotspot secondary schools in Kelantan tested positive for drugs, after 3,797 students underwent urine screening by Nada.

He said he had recently directed all Nada offices in Kelantan to compile more details on the issue, including the type of drugs used by the students.

He said students either took drugs for their own consumption or made money from selling drugs.

"The agency suspects that students who skipped school are the most likely to be involved in drugs.

"However, many parents do not realise this until it is too late," he said.

Halim said parents and the community must help Nada and other agencies in combating the drug menace.

He said the agency would cooperate with other authorities, such as the police and education departments, to conduct operations to get rid of drug addicts' dens.

He said the drug problem in Kelantan could be attributed to the easy access to illegal drugs smuggled in from across the border.

He said Pasir Mas recorded the highest number of students involved in drug abuse, followed by Pasir Putih and Kuala Krai.

SMK Pasir Mas Parent-Teacher Association president Muhammad Hasif Hasan said he believed that some of the teachers lacked knowledge on drug abuse and its symptoms.

"We cannot blame this solely on parents, teachers and the police on this issue.

"Parents sometimes cannot control their children.

"Teachers and school authorities also cannot be expected to monitor students all the time.

The 31 schools in Kelantan were among 402 problematic schools that were reported to be hotspots for disciplinary issues, such as drug abuse, bullying and absenteeism.

Topping the list of problematic schools was Selangor, with 76 institutions.



Datuk Dr Abd Halim Mohd Hussin