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150,000 to help in war against drugs

KAJANG: The government has stepped up the fight against drug abuse by forming a team of volunteers dedicated to the cause.

The team, dubbed "1Malaysia Anti-Narcotics Volunteer Team" (SKUAD 1Malaysia), is made up of more than 150,000 volunteers from non-governmental organisations and is run by the National Anti-Narcotics Agency (AADK) under the Home Ministry.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said the volunteers would assist the agency in all efforts in the war against drugs.

"The volunteers will be properly trained to assist in treatment and rehabilitation efforts," he said at the launch of the team yesterday.

He said SKUAD 1Malaysia is a collective effort, involving 147,034 members of Rakan Anti Dadah, 5,837 members of Masyarakat Wanita Anti Dadah, 1,639 members of the Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Committee and the rest from the AADK Alumni Association, Perastuan Pembimbing Rakan Seraya and the Ahli Lembaga Pelawat.

Hishammuddin, who also opened AADK's headquarters here yesterday, said the agency and the ministry were also looking into ways to help rehabilitate former addicts by providing new avenues for income and employment. He said Malaysians must work together and in tandem to effectively fight against the abuse and distribution of drugs.