

30 more centres for drug addicts

80PC SUCCESS RATE: 336,000 have been treated



KUALA LUMPUR: THE National Anti-Drug Agency (AADK) plans to set up another 30 Cure & Care Service Centres for drug addicts this year because of its encouraging success rate.

AADK director-general Puan Sri Zuraidah Mohamed said the programme had recorded an 80 per cent success rate since the first centre was opened two years ago.

"We plan to open the centres at drug hotspots around the country. Many state governments have asked us to set up centres," she said after launching the Chill & Cheer @ Lorong in Chow Kit yesterday.

Present were Yayasan Salam Malaysia board of trustees member and Media Prima Berhad executive director news and editorial operations Datuk Ahmad A. Talib and other AADK officials.

The Cure and Care Service Centre is jointly run by AADK and Yayasan Salam. It offers help to people, such as drug addicts, sex workers and the homeless, through 39 centres nationwide.

Among the programmes available are prevention of relapse and job placement. More than 336,000 people have received treatment.

Zuraidah said other countries had shown an interest in carrying out similar programmes.

Meanwhile, Ahmad said the programme was a paradigm shift in encouraging people to overcome their addiction.

He said the centres treated addicts as "clients" so they felt more receptive towards weaning off drugs.

"Our aim is to rehabilitate them. We give them back their self-esteem and change them to be productive and confident."

