

64 new drug abuse cases reported

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Wan Madihi Wan Salleh

KUCHING: Sarawak registered an increase of 64 new drug abuse cases and seven additional repeat offences in the first quarter of this year compared to the corresponding period last year.

With 87 new and 12 repeat offences, Kuching had the highest number of cases followed by Sarikei and Miri, both with 12 new cases, while Sarikei also had four additional repeat offences.

Sibu and Bintulu were the only divisions to show a reduced number of cases.

In Sibu, the number of new offences dropped to 10 from 56 the previous year.

As a whole, the state recorded 248 drug abuse cases in total for the first three months of the year compared to 177 cases last year.

National Anti-Drug Agency (AADK) state director Wan Madihi Wan Salleh said the increase is worrying and the agency would go all out together with other relevant authorities to fight drugs.

My Beautiful Malaysia (MyBM), he said, is one of the initiatives aimed at engaging more volunteers, particularly from the younger generation, to be AADK's eyes and ears in eradicating drug abuse.

Kuching South Mayour Datuk James Chan launched the MyBM programme at the Tabuan Jaya Neighbourhood Park yesterday.

Wan Madihi said Tabuan Jaya was selected because of the number of Police Supervision Orders (OKP) in the area as well as rising crime cases.

"The launch was done in Tabuan Jaya, which of course covers other neighbouring Tabuan areas. Tabuan was picked for the launch, but the programme will be gradually extended to other areas such as Rampangi and Semariang.

“We will be more aggressive in our efforts besides working with other relevant agencies to fight drugs. In MyBM, we also encourage the community to do cleaning because it is a volunteerism programme for all,” he told reporters.

Wan Madihi said AADK also managed the 1Malaysia Squad made up of volunteers who provide inside information to the agency.

“We have now over 7,000 volunteers throughout the state for the 1Malaysia Squad,” he said, adding MyBM was first launched by the federal government in 2013.