

## Ahmad Zahid visits ex-drug addicts

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A rare visit by Ahmad Zahid at a cure and care centre for ex-drug addicts in Chow Kit. SUNPIX by ASHRAF SHAMSUL

**KUALA LUMPUR (July 4, 2013):** A group of former drug addicts were all ears when Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi visited a cure and care centre for them in the Chow Kit area.

They were astounded when the minister walked into the centre unannounced at noon and proceeded to talk to them.

Accompanied by National Anti-drug Agency officers, he spent 45 minutes speaking to the men who are part of a drug rehabilitation programme involving methadone which is used to treat morphine and heroin addicts.

Ex-drug addict, Abdul Ghani Ahmad, 57, from Ipoh, Perak, told the minister that he had stopped using cocaine since completing a six-month drug rehabilitation programme.

He lamented the fact that many ex-drug addicts were homeless, adding that the authorities should create temporary shelters for them, at least to stay overnight.

"But every night we are forced to sleep along the streets which are dirty," said the former petty trader.

Another ex-addict, who wanted to remain anonymous, said it was difficult for people like him to apply for jobs given their history.

Ahmad Zahid later visited a shelter home in Kampug Baru meant for homeless children and women who were former sex workers and drug addicts.

He later promised to take their complaints to the Federal Territory Islamic Religious Department (Jawi) and Malaysian Islamic Development Department (Jakim).