

Monday, 23 May 2016

## **Anti-drug schemes must see results, NGOs told**

KUALA LUMPUR: Non-governmental organisations dealing with drug issues must emphasise on the outcome of their missions and not just come out with programmes, says Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The Deputy Prime Minister said many anti-drug programmes had been conducted at all levels from the grassroots to the national from with a lot of funding from the Government.

“But the problem still persists. Why? The outcome is not there to be seen, only the output,” he said at the launch of the Malaysian Substance Abuse Council (Masac).

Masac is an umbrella body that houses 60 NGOs and private rehabilitation centres that would conduct programmes and activities related to substance abuse, including treatment and drug rehabilitation.

Dr Ahmad Zahid said the council was set up to unite all the NGOs and their efforts.

“This unification is important. The intention is noble,” he added. “But I don’t want just a noble intention with a less than good outcome.”



United, we stand: Dr Ahmad Zahid arriving for the launch of the Malaysian Substance Abuse Council at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

He said it was important for the NGOs to have variety in their approaches when dealing with drug addicts, who had become younger by the years.

“Gen-Y, Gen-Z, Gen-Alpha are destroyed by drug addiction in whatever form it comes by, including synthetic drugs.

“Put aside our personal interests and let’s unite as one,” he said.

At the launch, Ahmad Zahid also presented a RM2mil cheque to council president Datuk Mohd Yunus Pathi to fund their operations.

He reminded the council that the funding came from taxpayers’ money.

“This fund is not to be simply distributed. There is a guideline to doing it,” he said. “It’s taxpayers’ money and they want to see the results.”

Later in Kuala Kangsar, Dr Ahmad Zahid said the Barisan Nasional hoped to announce its candidate for the Kuala Kangsar parliamentary by-election a week before Nomination Day on June 5.

“The candidate must be winnable and likeable. The Prime Minister will decide when it is nearer,” he said after a special meeting with state Umno leaders here.