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Cops to take urine tests

DRUG ABUSE

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Step to weed out addicts among 10,000-strong state force

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THE police are taking steps to address drug abuse in the rank and file, said Johor police chief Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Najmuddin Mohd.

The police will introduce more ad-hoc urine tests to weed out rogue staff among its 10,000 personnel in the state.

Najmuddin said most of the drug abusers caught last year were low-ranking personnel aged 30 and below.

"Statistics last year revealed that 64 police personnel were involved in drug abuse.

"The cases concerned the consumption of synthetic drugs, especially syabu or methamphetamine and ketamine.

"Last month, the disciplinary board dismissed seven personnel found guilty of taking drugs," he said after the state police's monthly assembly here yesterday.

Najmuddin added that based on police procedures, any personnel caught for drug offences would be suspended once the suspect was charged in court.

The errant staff may be sacked from the force based on the recom-

mendations of the police disciplinary board.

He said the guilty policemen tested positive after undergoing urine tests on two occasions.

"Those who tested positive in the second urine test were referred to the deputy public prosecutor.

"If they are charged, they can be suspended from work. That is the procedure.

"What is the use of them working if they are drug addicts?

"We can also fire them," said Najmuddin.

He said even though drug abusers among cops only made up 0.64 per cent of the state police workforce, the authorities needed to monitor the cases and find out the causes for it.

He said the police's Integrity Department had been tasked to investigate the reasons why policemen abused drugs.

"A directive was given to department chiefs and district police chiefs to conduct ad-hoc urine tests. We will call them up and test them.

"From there, we can see if their involvement in drugs was due to socialising with outsiders,

or whether they frequented entertainment centres or if they have any problems," he said.

Earlier, Najmuddin witnessed the handover of duties between the new Johor Special Branch chief Senior Assistant Commissioner Ahmad Ramdzan Daud and his predecessor, Datuk Ramli Hasan, who was promoted to Bukit Aman Special Branch assistant director starting March 1.



Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Najmuddin Mohd