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KUALA LUMPUR: Drug syndicates here have resorted to multi-level marketing (MLM) to promote their products, particularly among students.

National Anti-Drug Agency, Kuala Lumpur (AADK) director Tengku Hanizar Tengku Awang said various types of drug could be obtained through group WhatsApp with dealers baiting members with a special price for the substance through MLM.

She cited "Mary Jane", "Cik Putih", "butterfly", "playboy", as among the code names used by the syndicates to promote and sell the drugs covertly.

The agency found that drug supplies would be sent by syndicate members to addresses given by customers, and transactions are done in cash.

"Code names are used to avoid detection. For instance, if someone received a package with 'Mary Jane' written on it, his family would not be aware that it was about drugs. The syndicates also target club-goers," she

said in an exclusive interview with Bernama recently.

She said WhatsApp group members get their drug supply at special prices if they promote them to their friends.

Drug use among students in the city was becoming a worrying phenomenon.

A greater number tested positive for drugs this year compared to the previous year.

Between January and July this year, 72 secondary students in Kuala Lumpur tested positive for drugs, with 60 for cannabis. In 2015, 48 students tested positive for drugs, with 44 for cannabis.

"During this period, AADK had carried out urine screening on 2,575 students involving 100 schools in Cheras, Dang Wangi, Brickfields and Sentul districts.

"Usually, we carry out the screening on high-risk students with disciplinary problems, absenteeism, smoking and weak academic performance," she said.