

Zahid : Drug abuse among students worrying

26 October 2016

8

Top News

Zahid: Drug abuse among students worrying

KUALA LUMPUR — Secondary school students are taking to synthetic drugs as a form of entertainment, and this rising trend has raised alarm bells with the Education Ministry.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said a study carried out on 35,755 respondents nationwide found that four per cent — 1,457 — tested positive for drugs.

Expressing his concern, Zahid, who is also the home minister, has ordered more holistic measures besides just depending on enforcement officers to curb the problem.

“Drug traffickers are using school

students to boost their market,” he said at a press conference after chairing a Cabinet committee meeting to prevent drug abuse yesterday.

Zahid said Kedah had the highest number of cases at 274 last year, followed by Kelantan (197) and Perak (180).

“Of that number, 74 per cent were found to be methamphetamine users, 20 per cent cannabis and the remainder consumed other types of drugs. All are synthetic drugs and we are worried,” he said.

He said the meeting decided that relevant authorities should break away from conventional prevention and

rehabilitation strategies and opt for new measures.

“The committee will meet again in 30 days to look at the operations. We want to see proactive measures and not plans on papers,” he said.

Zahid said the plans discussed included confiscating all assets and property of those convicted by the court for drug trafficking, liquidating them and later channelling the proceeds for preventive, rehabilitation and enforcement.

He said people could not just depend on the authorities to fight the matter, and a more qualitative measure was required.