

Drug test for students

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KUCHING: The state Drug Prevention Action Council (DPAC) will conduct random drug test on students soon.

Its chairman Tan Sri William Mawan said the primary objective of the exercise was to prevent drug abuse among students and at the same time to help those students hooked to the menace to become drug-free.

Mawan, who is Social Development Minister, said the results of a positive drug test could also be used to intervene with students who do not yet have drug problems, through counselling and follow-up test.

He said for students that were diagnosed with addiction, the council would refer them to effective drug treatment programmes, to begin the recovery process.

“We hoped to start our random student drug test programme next month.

“We will check with the state Education Department first to see which school is a matter of concerned,” he told a press conference after chairing the DPAC meeting at Wisma Bapa Malaysia here yesterday.

Mawan said several agencies would be involved in the exercise.

He said the exercise would cover secondary school, college and university students.

He said so far the ministry had no statistics available on students’ drug addiction or abusers.

“That is why we need to conduct a random test so that we know how many student addictions or abusers are there in the state,” he added.

Mawan hoped the random test would serve as a deterrent, and gave students a reason to resist peer pressure to take drugs.

He said the exercise could also help to identify adolescents who had started using drugs so that interventions could occur early, or identify adolescents who already had drug problems so that they could be referred for treatment.

He said the exercise would be carried out in phases from time to time.