

## **KDN seeks allocations to overcome drug problems**

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**KUALA LUMPUR (June 21, 2013):** The Home Ministry (KDN) is seeking for supplementary allocations to fight the drug menace in the country in the 2014 Budget.

Its Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the drug problem needed to be eradicated so that the future of children would be secured and to curb crimes involving drug abuse.

He said one ministry study found 48.2 per cent of 35,000 prisoners nationwide were involved in crime due to drug addiction. He said as a result of drug addiction, prisoners were involved in snatching, smuggling, drug trafficking, robberies, burglaries and thefts until they were caught and jailed.

"The ministry will seek an additional allocation that is twice the amount it received before this. Since 2011, we received RM5 million. I hope the PM (Prime Minister) will increase the allocation as it is better to overcome the overall drug problem," he said.

Ahmad Zahid was speaking to reporters after attending a session with non-governmental organisations (NGO) here recently.

Since 2011, Ahmad Zahid said the government had allocated grants totalling RM5 million to private drug rehabilitation centres and NGOs to implement treatment and rehabilitation programmes as well as drug prevention.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation vice-chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye hailed the additional allocation proposal and said the fund was needed to finance programme costs and rehabilitation activities organised by registered NGOs.

"Even if there were many NGOs handling individual rehabilitation for drug addiction, many of them are facing financial constraints.

"As such, the additional fund proposed by the Minister is very helpful to these bodies to continue their rehabilitation programmes," he told Bernama.

About 300,000 drug addicts have been identified in Malaysia, thus Lee said close cooperation among all parties were needed to free the country from the drug menace. – *Bernama*