

# Playground for glue sniffers

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By Olivia Peter  
streets@nstp.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** A playground in Jalan PJS 2C/8, 'Taman Dato' Harun, near a police beat base, is becoming a hotspot for glue-sniffing among children.

A resident, who refused to be named, said the children, as young as 9, were indulging in the activity out in the open, oblivious to their surrounding.

"This has been going on for more than 10 years, but we can't do much to stop them. Although the police have nabbed some of them, others are still coming to sniff glue," she said.

*Streets*' visit to the site saw four teenaged glue-sniffers on a high.

Three of them were girls. The boy in the group, who called himself Baby Gum, said the police do come once in awhile.

"When we see the police, we run away. After they're gone, we come back," said the 18-year-

old. He said he has been sniffing glue for six years.

He said he and his friends get the money to buy glue from their parents.

"A can of glue can be bought at the store for RM4. At night, we have a party and hang out sniffing glue until dawn.

"My friends and I have nothing better to do as we are jobless. If we're employed, then maybe we'll be busy and won't have time for this bad habit," said Baby Gum, who even demonstrated the way to sniff glue.

Taman Medan state assemblyman Haniza Mohamed Talha said she had raised the matter with the district officer.

She said it has been proposed that there be a law specifically related to glue-sniffing as a deterrent.

Haniza said she had proposed the setting up of a mini-rehabilitation centre for glue addicts to Persatuan Mencegah Dadah Malaysia (Pemadam) in March.

"A few Taman Medan residents and I participated in a workshop organised by the Petaling District office, recently, on how to tackle the issue. The workshop taught us that the community should work as a support group for those addicted to glue-sniffing.

"We can help by putting them in touch with experts who will be able to counsel the addicts to help them break the bad habit," Haniza said.

She said everyone, including family members, teachers, police, and even the public, should work together to curb the problem.

*Streets* spoke to a police officer in the area



Empty glue cans left behind by glue sniffers in a playground at Taman Dato' Harun. (Inset) Haniza Mohamed Talha — Picture by Yong Chee Choong

who said they were aware of the glue-sniffers.

"We patrol this area regularly and have nabbed many glue addicts," he said.

"However, without a specific law to prosecute them, we can only advise and release them," he said.