

Nada: More raids, more new addicts

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KUALA LUMPUR

THE number of new drug addicts seeking treatment at National Anti-Drug Agency (Nada) Cure & Care Clinics and rehabilitation centres last year revealed an alarming 25.4 per cent increase.

Nada director-general Datuk Suhaimi Abdullah said the increase was due to the increasing number of raids conducted by enforcement agencies.

"The number of new addicts at the clinics increased from 12,428 between January and November 2014 to 15,581 during the same period last year. Of the new addicts, 14,908 were male," he said.

The number of repeat offenders, however, saw a 30.3 per cent decline, from 7,483 in 2014 to 5,213 last year.

The overall number of drug addicts seeking treatment at Nada clinics and rehabilitation centres was 20,794 last year, a 4.4 per cent increase from 19,911 cases in 2014.

Suhaimi said of the number of addicts at Nada clinics and centres, 557 were teenagers aged between

13 and 18.

He said patients at the clinic and rehabilitation centres came voluntarily or after being arrested during raids.

"Some were sent by their family members," he added.

Nada, said Suhaimi, worked closely with other enforcement agencies, especially the police, to combat drug abuse in the country.

He said the agency focused solely on rehabilitation and treatment, and as such, needed cooperation from police and other enforcement agencies.

"Nada with the police, Immigration Department, People's Volunteer Corps and other enforcement agencies conducts joint operations, especially at high-risk areas. We (Nada officers) are unarmed, so we need other agencies (such as the police) when entering dangerous areas."

Suhaimi said the same goes for operations in locations with a high number of immigrants. In such cases, the Immigration Department would be roped in to join the operation.

Federal police Narcotics Department director Datuk Seri Mohd Mokhtar Mohd Shariff called on the public to monitor their family members to ensure they led a drug-free lifestyle.

He said families and communities played important roles in the fight against drugs.

"The drug problem can be controlled if communities and families monitor each other and give their support. They must do their bit to ensure their loved ones are not tempted by drugs."

Mokhtar said the public should also be the eyes and ears of the police and report any information on drug-related activities. **By Hani Shamira Shahrudin**

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Datuk Suhaimi Abdullah
director-general,
National Anti-Drug Agency (Nada)



Drug abusers seeking treatment between January and November 2015

INFOGRAPHIC: NST

