

Mental health cases jump nearly 200%

More S'gor folk seeking online counselling for marital woes, depression and abuse since MCO

SELANGOR recorded a 191.8% increase in mental health problems that rose to 251 cases from 86 in the preceding year after the implementation of the movement control order (MCO) in March 2020.

Data from the Selangor Counselling Centre (PKS) showed that this figure dropped slightly by 15% to 214 last year following relaxations under the National Recovery Plan.

Selangor human capital development, sports and youth generation development committee chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman said there was an increase in requests for counselling sessions.

"Most of the requests were for online sessions.

"Among issues reported were family and marital breakdown, as well as psychopathology such as depression and other mental health problems," he said.

He noted data from the Welfare Department also reported 1,910 child abuse cases between March 2020 and 2021.

The data, he revealed at the state assembly sitting, comprised abuse cases of physical nature (686), sexual (606), emotional (63) and neglect (555).

Mazwan Johar (PH-Sungai Ramal) asked what measures were being taken to address these issues.

Mohd Khairuddin said the state government, via the Pakej Kita Selangor (PKS) programme, adopted a three-pronged approach.

"These are ensuring the people's welfare and livelihood, keeping afloat the industries and economic sectors in Selangor, as well as curbing the spread of Covid-19.

"Job fairs were also held statewide, with the target of offering 25,000 vacancies to the jobless, which was among reasons for the rise in social ills," he added.

Mohd Khairuddin said the state government would continue the free counselling sessions via PKS, formerly known as Talian Sahabat, for those needing help.

"We are also setting up more care homes



Mohd Khairuddin says the state is setting up more care homes to help and provide guidance to affected residents.

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"This is in addition to a RM305,000 allocation in 2020 and 2021 to such centres to hold motivational programmes.

"The Selangor Islamic Council also held talks involving teenagers to address social issues among the young," he said.

He added that Selangor recorded some 18,000 crime cases in the last two years, which consisted of property-related offences (13,359) and violent crime (4,633).

Among violent cases reported were murder (80), rape (364), robbery (3,033) and causing injuries (1,156).

Property-related offences included theft of vehicles (9,966) and break-ins (3,393).