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Anwar-dadah

GREATER EFFORT TO COMBAT DADAH, SAYS ANWAR

BUKIT MERTAJAM, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- Concerted efforts are being made to eradicate the dadah menace because the rehabilitation of addicts has been ineffective despite the government having spent a lot of money, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

"Dadah is a complicated matter because it involves not only rehabilitation and after-care but a host of other problems which should be given priority," he said.

The setting up of the National Dadah Council chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was a specific measure to wipe out the dadah threat, he told reporters after presenting aid to 405 poor people, 32 orphans and 10 handicapped people in his Permatang Pauh parliamentary constituency here.

One priority is to speed up the construction and upgrading of rehabilitation centres so that more addicts could be rounded up for treatment.

The Anti-Dadah Task Force had also made other recommendations like building camps for addicts and rehabilitated addicts to allow them to participate in beneficial activities, he said.

However, this proposal required a more comprehensive approach in training and information and we should provide programmes like Rakan Muda to attract the participation of youths, he said.

Yesterday, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob said the government had approved RM120 million for upgrading and building dadah rehabilitation centres.

Megat Junid said Pemadam and other voluntary bodies had failed in their fight against dadah because the country still has 200,000 addicts, including 80,000 hardcore cases.

On a tabloid newspaper report questioning the Employees Provident Fund's (EPF) purchase of 12 Volvos costing a total of RM1.8 million for its senior managers, Anwar said he had not received a full report on the matter.

Anwar, who is Finance Minister, said the ministry would have no objection if the purchase was made according to regulations.

"But if the officers are not entitled to use the cars, then only will we question the transaction and proceed with investigation," he said.

Anwar said based on preliminary information from EPF, the purchase was made according to procedure and based on the entitlement of the officers.

-- Bernama

SA MAI YBY