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Problems

COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE KELANTAN ANTI-SOCIAL ILL EFFORTS

KOTA BAHARU, April 21 (Bernama) -- A special committee met here today to overhaul existing programmes to tackle social ills in Kelantan, which its chairman Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said, are poorly organised and uncoordinated.

This state of affairs have rendered efforts to overcome social problems among youths in Kelantan ineffective, said Mustapa who is Entrepreneur Development Minister and Umno Social Bureau chairman.

He said many programmes and studies by government departments, especially the state Education Department, were ineffective and Kelantan remained among the states facing social problems among youths particularly drug addiction.

"We see many parties trying to implement their own programmes but the results are lacking as they all adopt their own measures causing waste of effort and money," he said here.

The special committee comprised all federal departments to enable such programmes to be coordinated and centralised.

The state Economic Planning Unit (UPEN), representing the state government, had been invited to the committee to help implement integrated programmes at all levels irrespective of political beliefs.

"At the committee's first meeting today we agreed that all groups involved prepare data on social problems in Kelantan," he said.

All information collected would be analysed within a month to enable a more effective strategy to be implemented, he said.

Mustapa, who is also a member of the cabinet committee on social problems chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said Kelantan needed urgent attention in overcoming social problems.

It has recorded, among other things, the second highest number of new drug addicts in the country. -- BERNAMA

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