

23/06/1997

Cough mixture addiction, a major worry in Wakaf Baru

RAMLI Abu Bakar's main concern as the Assemblyman for Wakaf Baru is the social ills affecting the constituency, particularly dadah abuse.

Ramli says history has shown how nations have succumbed to dadah and he did not want the country to fall into the same trap because there is an insufficient attempt to combat the menace.

"In my constituency, the threat of cough mixture containing codeine is quite widespread.

"I fear that these people who consume the item will switch to other dadah once they cannot be satisfied with just the cough mixture," he says.

His deep concern has led him to report to the police if he stumbles across places usually frequented by dadah addicts in his constituency.

Ramli says he would like to gather together all community leaders and department heads to think of ways to overcome the problem and make the constituency a dadah-free area.

"It is important for the people to set aside their political differences and work closely together to combat the menace.

"I am particularly concerned with the attitude of some parents who refuse to acknowledge the dadah problems affecting their family members," he says.

These parents, says Ramli, not only refuse to cooperate with the authorities but also choose to ignore the problem until it is too late.

"My main task is to educate the constituents of the dangers of these social ills.

It is time for the people to heed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice and concern for the problem before it gets out of hand," he says.

Ramli says he would try to persuade the authorities to ban youths below 20 years old from gathering outside their homes after 10pm.

He notes that most of the people who patronise shops including coffee shops at night and until the early hours of the morning are youngsters who should be at home getting a good night's sleep.

"My constituency enjoys the basic amenities including piped water supply and electricity. The entire constituency comes under the purview of the Tumpat District Council.

"As the ex-officio for the council, I also contribute ideas on ways to improve the public utilities in the area particularly on the need to maintain cleanliness," he says.

His constituents comprise mainly farmers and petty traders and this makes Wakaf Baru town a popular shopping haven for consumers from Tumpat and even Kota Baru, as a place for cheap food and other household goods.

TDC, he adds, has built a RM2.6 million wet market to replace the present old market.

In addition, it has also spent another RM2 million to build rows of shophouses, he says, adding that it would not be long for Wakaf Baru to see an improvement in the economic sector when more development are carried out by the State Government and the local authority.