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Najib-Drugs

DRUG ABUSE AMONG STUDENTS UNDER CONTROL: NAJIB

LANGKAWI, March 9 (Bernama) -- Drug abuse among students is still under control although some have been found to be drug addicts, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said the government was constantly monitoring the situation through measures such as requiring suspected student drug addicts to take urine tests.

"It is not practical to test every student due to the high cost," he told reporters after attending a Multimedia Super Corridor Implementation Committee briefing here.

The briefing was conducted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for senior editors of local media organisations.

Najib was responding to Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob's statement yesterday that there are about 20,000 student drug abusers nationwide and that there could be more if a comprehensive study was conducted.

Najib said he could not comment on behalf of his ministry without receiving the urine test reports.

"It is difficult for us to ascertain the number of students involved; so it may not be accurate of us to quote a percentage estimation," he added.

On the 36 students who were held in Muar last month, he said they were released after their urine tests turned out negative.

They would not face disciplinary action but would instead undergo counselling programmes organised by the police and Pemadam, he said. --
BERNAMA