

01/03/1997

Go to pupils with talks and seminars

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THE District Education Department has a vital role to play in curbing social ills among schoolchildren, especially dadah addiction, in view of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to all parties to seriously look into the problems affecting youths.

Police and members of the public felt that the department should organise talks, seminars and exhibitions in schools to create awareness among schoolchildren on the dangers that lurk around them and the consequences if they fall prey to social ills.

Coming in with full support is Klang police chief, Assistant Commissioner Aziz Ariarasa Abdullah who said schoolchildren must be made aware of the social ills and what would happen if they fall prey to them.

"It is important that the respective district education departments hold talks, seminars and exhibitions in schools so that the children are made aware of the dangers and are given guidance as to how to avoid falling into the trap."

He said the police were always willing to give assistance as its objective was to help curb the social ills affecting youths.

"It is important that headmasters, disciplinary masters, and teachers stop ignoring the problems affecting their students to avoid creating bad image for their respective schools," he added.

He said many of problems such as gangsterism, extortion, fights and dadah addiction among students have gone beyond control because school authorities had not taken them seriously.

Aziz urged parents to be more responsible by closely monitoring the activities of their children and informing the authorities should their young be involved in undesirable activities.

"It is better to nip the problem in the bud," he said, adding that many parents, when questioned, deny their children's involvement in criminal activities.

As far as Klang is concerned, Aziz said schoolchildren have been detained for various criminal offences, but not dadah trafficking or addiction except for a 13-year-old school dropout last year, who was detained for dadah addiction.

Giving the district breakdown on dadah traffickers and addicts, he said over the last two months, the police had arrested 65 traffickers and 165 addicts and seized from them 33.9g of heroin, 15,982g of ganja and 117 psychotropic pills.

Of the traffickers arrested, four will be charged under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act which carries the mandatory death sentence and another nine under 39A of the same Act which carries on the penalty of life imprisonment.

Last year, Aziz said they arrested 542 traffickers and 1,145 dadah addicts and seized from them, among others, 1,365.05g of heroin, 5,886g of ganja and 1,935 pills.

Of the traffickers arrested, 47 were charged under Section 39B and 55 under Section 39A of the Act.

In 1995, 425 dadah traffickers and 1,348 addicts were arrested after police seized from them among other drugs, 705g of heroin, 1,614g of ganja and 1,968 pills.

Of the traffickers arrested, 27 were charged under Section 39B and 77 under Section 39A of the Act.

Aziz said many of those arrested for trafficking were labourers and unemployed persons.

"We have people from all walks of life involved in dadah trafficking and addiction," Aziz said, adding that the majority of them were aged between 18 and 40.

The areas in Klang where traffickers and addicts normally hang out include Pandamaran, Kampung Jawa, Taman Sri Muda and Port Klang.

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