

27/10/2002

Pemadam seeks more women activists

PORT DICKSON, Sat. - The National Association for the Prevention of Drug Abuse (Pemadam) aims to get 15,000 women nationwide to become its "activists".

Pemadam chairman Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin said so far 550 women activists, including professionals, had been trained by the association and Government to help free the country of drugs.

"We are going to train another 220 women soon. They will be trained to assist parents whose children are involved in drugs.

"They will also be directly involved in taking our anti-drug campaigns into schools, factories and other places," Zainal, who is also Deputy Home Minister, said after opening a seminar organised by the association's women bureau last night.

He said a study by the United Nations revealed that 30 per cent of drug addicts were HIV-positive.

Apart from women activists, the Government hoped that civil servants, the police and the armed forces would hold regular anti-drug campaigns.

"We have set a target for the country to be free of drugs by 2015 and schools by 2013."

A colloquium on drug prevention campaigns to be held in Genting Highlands next year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali are expected to be present.

Asked about the sale of toys and products bearing pictures of Osama bin Laden, Zainal said the Government would not ban them.

Yesterday, Negri Sembilan MIC Youth chief M. Sasasey called for these items to be taken off the shelves.