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Campaign-Drugs

DRUG PREVENTION CAMPAIGN TO FOCUS ON AMPHETAMINE STIMULANTS

JOHOR BAHRU, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- The drug prevention campaign this year will focus on amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), proven to be highly dangerous, involving mostly middle-class abusers.

Deputy Director-General of the National Drugs Agency Haji Abd Rashid Mat Adam said ATS, smuggled through neighbouring countries, abuse was not widespread as yet but immediate action was needed to bring the situation under control.

Research shows ATS abuse was the second-highest after ganja while heroin abuse fell to third place Abd Rashid told a press conference after launching the Tampoi Serenti Centre's Residents Variety Games, here today.

Abd Rashid said ATS abuse could result in addiction with the stimulants posing great risks to mental health.

"As such, the intensive drug programme with a focus on schools, higher learning institutions, workplace and parenting will be launched in March in Kuala Lumpur by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said.

Abd Rashid said the programme aspired to fulfil the government's target of making the country drug free by 2015.

"The drug prevention campaign not only focuses on high-risk areas covered under the programme but also rural areas and drug addict haunts," he said.

He said the government's target could be realised if the community and various public agencies readily cooperate to end the drug menace.

There were about 10,000 addicts at 28 Serenti Centres nationwide which cost an annual expenditure of RM70 million he said.

-- BERNAMA

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