

Search Newspapers

Browse Newspapers

I am looking for



Advanced Search

Home > The Straits Times : Weekly Overseas Edition > 21 May 1988 > Page 11 > 300 prison officers in drug network

300 prison officers in drug network

Straits Times (Overseas ed), 21 May 1988, Page 11

Article also available on Microfilm Reel NL19560

Add to Citation

Previous Article

Next Article

Previous Page

Next Page

300 prison officers in drug network

Pudu jail the worst affected, says minister

KUALA LUMPUR — About 5 per cent or 300 of the 6,000 prison officers have been identified as being involved in drug-related activities, including smuggling it into prisons, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub said.

The Sunday Mail, which reported this, quoted the minister as saying that the officers, mostly from the middle and lower ranks, were under investigation.

In the past seven years, 96 prison officers had been sacked for drug-related offences.

"We can expect more to be sacked in the near future when the investigations on the 300 are completed," he told reporters at a cheque presentation ceremony for Pemandam (National Committee for Drug Rehabilitation) at his office here.

Datuk Megat Junid said these statistics were established by a special committee set up to study the drug problem in prisons.

The committee had dis-

Information



Newspaper: Straits Times (Overseas ed)

Date: 21 May 1988

Reel Number: NL19560

Scroll to Top

Share

Table of Contents

< Previous Page 11 Next >

300 prison officers in drug network

300 prison officers in drug network Pudu jail the worst affected, says minister KUALA LUMPUR About 5 per

No plans yet to impose Islamic law, says minister

No plans yet to impose Islamic law, says minister KUALA LUMPUR The government has no immediate

More S'pore patients for JB specialists

More S'pore patients for JB specialists JOHOR BARU An increasing number of Singaporeans are seeking

View Full Table of Contents

covered a drug network involving officers, prisoners, ex-prisoners and parents of inmates within the jails.

Datuk Megat Junid said the drug network in Malaysian prisons is a "culture" by itself with code words, devious methods and hierarchies.

He said the study showed that Pudu prison in Kuala Lumpur was the worst drug-affected prison followed by the Kuantan prison.

Datuk Megat Junid said conditions in Pudu prison were so unsanitary that sniffer dogs could not detect the drugs stashed in the premises.

"The foul odours are so powerful, they overwhelm the dogs' ability to smell the drugs," he said.

"The drug supply network is a complex circle involving everyone from officers, ex-prisoners, parents, friends, relatives and the prisoners themselves," said Datuk Megat Junid.

He said prisoners who come from wealthy families arrange for money to be smuggled in by prison officers who take half the amount each time.

"The rich prisoners, who are used to a comfortable life, use the money to buy additional rations like foodstuff from prisoners who are drug addicts," said Datuk Megat Junid.

"The addicted prisoners in turn use this money to buy drugs."

Datuk Megat Junid said the drug problem in prisons had worsened because about half of the 21,000 prisoners in the country are in jail for drug-related offences.

Squeeze drugs into toothpaste tube

"Many, jailed for other offences, turned out to be addicts as well," he said. "Thus one can see why there is a huge demand for drugs in prisons."

The committee also discovered some of the methods used to smuggle drugs into prisons.

Parents are known to squeeze drugs into toothpaste tubes which they hand over to prisoners during visits.

They also arrange with

ex-prisoners to "drop" drug packages at strategic locations, including flower pots and bushes near prisons.

Prisoners hide the drugs in all sorts of places, including their rectum.

“Datuk Megat Junid said conditions in Pudu Prison were so unsanitary that drug sniffer dogs could not detect the drugs stashed in the premises. “The foul odours are so powerful, they overwhelm the dogs’ ability to smell the drug,” he said.

— from the report in *The Sunday Mail*.

Related Articles

No related article found.

