

Pemadam club to be formed in UMS: Yahya

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Kota Kinabalu: Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Yahya Hussin on Monday said despite drug abuse and social problems not being that serious in Sabah, these must be stopped before they get out of hand.

Speaking at the closing of the State-level higher learning institute Pemadam colloquium at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), here, he said such awareness should be inculcated at a young age.

"At the same time the programme would be targeted at the youths and students at institutes of higher learning since they are the nation's future leaders," he said.

He said student involvement in drug prevention programmes or other co-curriculum activities should complement their academic pursuits.

He said knowledge was an integral part of students' preparation for the challenges after they have graduated and hence the importance of their involvement in other activities such as Pemadam.

Yahya, who is also Sabah Pemadam chairman, said the social problems affecting the youths today do not take into account their education background and hence many were sucked into the vortex of drug dependency.

"Hence, I hope you (students) would make full use of the knowledge that you have learned from the colloquium and spread it to your friends in your respective schools," he said.

He said as an educated person, the students should know of the dangers in using drugs and that they are better off getting involved in beneficial activities such as sports, recreation and others.

To meet such needs, Yahya said Pemadam would be forming Pemadam clubs in each of the institutes of higher learning throughout the nation.

"In Sabah, we would form the first club in the UMS followed by other institutes who have taken part in the colloquium today (Monday)," he said. Through the club, he said Pemadam hoped that the students would take active part in society-related activities. The colloquium was organised jointly by the National Pemadam, Sabah Pemadam and the UMS. Defence Deputy Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin officiated at the closing of the one-day event.