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Harm Reduction Strategy to tackle drug use

ALOR SETAR: The Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) has introduced the Harm Reduction Strategy to tackle drug use through structural intervention.

The strategy is aimed at reducing discrimination and marginalisation of injecting drug users [IDUs] within the Needle Syringe Exchange Programme or NSEP.

MAC president Tan Sri

The number represents 47.4 per cent of new HIV/AIDS cases last year.

Tan Sri Mohd Zaman Khan, MAC president

Mohd Zaman Khan said the council also wanted to enhance advocacy efforts with the relevant law enforcement agencies towards creating an enabling environment for Harm Reduction programmes,

including a review of existing policies.

He said MAC records showed that 63,680 of 91,362 HIV cumulative cases were IDUs.

“The number represents 47.4 per cent of new HIV/

AIDS cases last year,” Mohd Zaman said in a statement, in conjunction with a two-day seminar jointly organised by MAC and the police.

The seminar, ‘Enforcement and Harm Reduction Programme’, held at the Langkawi Police Training Centre, was attended by 30 senior police officers from Kedah, Penang, Perak and Kelantan. — Bernama