Malaysia

"Please check against delivery"

GENERAL STATEMENT BY

HON. DATUK DR. HAJI WAN JUNAIDI BIN TUANKU JAAFAR

DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

At the High Level Segment

57th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND)

13 MARCH 2014, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, we associate ourselves with the statement by G77 and China.

Drug is a serious threat to most nations, including Malaysia. It disrupts the social fabric of the society, the fundamental of economy, and even compromise the security of a nation. Malaysia is acutely aware of this, and hence in February 1983 it was declared it as a threat to national security. This was followed with the enactment of the Dangerous Drug Act in 1985 which carried severe punishment including the mandatory death sentence.

Malaysia is not a producing country. But we inadvertently become a transit hub, due to our strategic geographical position, vibrant trading, tourism and education industries which have been taken advantage by traffickers and drug barons. Smuggling of illegal drugs through air, land and sea cargo for local market as well as for international market are being detected. The education and tourism industries which encourage the almost free flow of people to the country have also been taken advantage of by the smugglers. The tourists who are using social visit passes and student visas are being used as drug mules.

A strong Cabinet Committee on Eradication of Drugs chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister was established in 2004 to formulate the national drug policy, to oversee its implementation, to coordinate the various machinery for law enforcement, preventive measure through education and awareness publicity, and to intensify treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts. Adequate finance and human resources were allocated to address this problem for awareness campaigns, prevention, rehabilitation, enforcement of the laws.

The latest step taken by the Police is the commissioning of the Special Tactics and Intelligence Narcotics Group which has been tasked to investigate and arrest of the drug kingpins, local and international including drug smuggling syndicates. The squad is part of the measures in curbing drug related activities and crimes in the country.

Mr. Chairman,

While the drug situation in Malaysia is under control with regular detection and disruption of drug trafficking syndicates networks, dismantling of clandestine laboratories, seizures of drugs and illegal proceeds of drug trafficking by the law enforcement authorities. But the development of ATS drugs such as

methamphetamine has compounded the problem. It has found Malaysia particularly attractive market which offers high profits returns. This has presented a new and a greater challenge for the Enforcement Agencies in the country.

Through the Pharmaceutical Services Division of the Ministry of Health, Malaysia has introduced a system to control substances such as narcotics, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals. This is to ensure that they are used legitimately for medical treatment and industrial purposes. This integrates the substances (narcotics, psychotropic and precursors) control via online permit, licence and authorisation application/issuance and shares this information with the country's drug enforcement agencies such as the National Anti-Drug Agency, Royal Malaysia Police, Royal Malaysia Customs, and the Narcotic Section of the Chemistry Department, Ministry of Health. This shared information seems to work well for the country.

Mr. Chairman,

On the demand reduction effort, the National anti-Drug Agency had been vigorously pursuing - offering treatment and rehabilitation services to volunteering drug addicts. There are 57 Cure & Care Clinics, Cure & Care Services Centre, Caring Community House (CCH), Cure & Care Vocational Centres (CCVC) and Cure & Care Rehabilitation Centre (CCRC). It is estimated that 674,287 drug addicts recorded to have been seeking assistance at all the Centres since January, 2014. At the same time; the Caring Community House (CCH) the community type activity centre providing anti-drugs information while the Cure & Care Vocational Centres (CCVC) is assisting drug addicts to acquire vocational skills training and jobs.

The latest of this is the Mobile "Cure and Care Clinic. It offers a basic treatment and screening for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, detoxification treatment and counselling. The Mobile Clinic is effective in providing services to the inaccessible rural areas, especially making available medical officers, counsellors, medicines and strengthen psycho-social support system to the community which otherwise unable to get the treatment and care at acceptable cost. Government agencies are also working with NGOs like the Malaysian AIDS Council to introduce medicines like antiretroviral therapy and methadone for those in remand.

Malaysia has also introduced a multi-prong strategy to overcome the problem of drug abuse, namely;

1. Implementation of prevention programs by targeting high risk male teenage / adolescence.
2. Implementation of prevention program in higher education institutions, family institutions, workplace and high risk community
3. To empower civil society as agents for drug prevention
4. To maximize the usage of new media in Preventive Education and Publicity
5. To increase the cooperation between strategic partners and smart partnership in implementing the prevention program
6. To garner the support of volunteers

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia recognises that drug trafficking and abuse is an issue without borders, and Malaysia will continue to work with its ASEAN and other regional and international partners to deal with drug issues and problem. Malaysia will take

a balanced approach between supply reduction with relentless actions against drug traffickers and drug syndicates while also recognizing that drug addiction is a complex health disorder requiring expanded accessibility to treatment and allied services for drug dependents as outlined in the world drug strategy.

On the whole, Malaysia will continue to vigorously take, whatever measure it must, to reduce supply and demand, in order to ensure the future generation of Malaysian are not destroy by the drug menace.

Thank You