

Executive Summary of Brunei Darussalam's Country Report

Introduction

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is the main agency to combat drug abuse activities in Brunei Darussalam.

Overall responsibility of this agency is to enforce drug laws under the Misuse of Drugs Act, Chapter 27, operating on both preventive drug education and law enforcement basis. It is also responsible in collecting and investigating information either from trusted source or members of the public and serves as the coordinator of all anti drugs programs as well as vital focal point of cooperation with other drug agencies at regional and international level.

The enforcement of the NCB is based on the national policy of "demand and supply reduction strategy."

Summary

Drug Abuse Situation in Brunei Darussalam.

1. The Narcotics Control Bureau has recorded a total number of 547 persons arrested in 2010.
2. The number of arrests has risen from 522 in 2009 to 547 in 2010, an increase of approximately 5%.
3. Out of 547 persons arrested, 57% were repeated arrests and 43% were new arrests.

4. Majority of arrested persons were unemployed, males aged 31 and above years of age.
5. In Brunei Darussalam, males largely commit drug offences and this trend remains.
6. Men, particularly aged 31 and above are more likely to be victims of drug abuse.
7. Females involvement in drug abuse activities remain minimum.
8. In the year 2010, 452 persons or 83% of the arrests were Bruneian (local) and only 10% or 54 were foreigners.
9. The most abused drug is methylamphetamine or syabu. Followed by cannabis and psychotropic substances.
10. No arrest has been made in 2010 with respect to international drug syndicate.
11. However several local recruiters had been identified in relation to international drug syndicate and they were currently listed under the “stop list” to prevent them from travelling outside Brunei.

Two important aspect to control drug abuse in Brunei Darussalam:

- a. Supply Reduction Measures – the main components of these measures include control of border and check points, strengthening drug law enforcement, legislation, national cooperation and bilateral relationship with Malaysia and Singapore.

Characteristically, drug trafficking activities in Brunei Darussalam only run by "small business" and do not involve large-scale syndicate. This "small business" only distributed its "products" for local consumption only. As a result of active collation on information and other vital measures imposed, various success have been achieved by the NCB in it attempts to stop drugs from entering the country.

Other than (a) above, the most recent initiative enforced by the NCB in relation to supply reduction measures is the establishment of DTROP Unit. This Unit has been given responsibilities to investigate anything related to proceed of drug trafficking and the recovering of assets and properties from such offence.

The main objectives of the Unit are:

- to focus on investigation technique in gathering evidence to ascertain assets of suspects (Project based).
 - to discover, identify, seize, confiscate proceeds of drug trafficking.
 - to trace funds of drug trafficker and perform concealed income analysis.
- b. Preventive drug education programmes, treatment and rehabilitation programme and mandatory supervision programme are all fall under the Demand Reduction Measures.

All preventive drug education activities such as anti-drug talks, dialogues, road shows, exhibitions and forums are held nationwide, reaching even the rural parts of the country. Last year (2010), the Narcotics Control Bureau has managed to conduct 343 anti-drug activities throughout the country which involved a total number of 34,418 audiences.

The Narcotics Control Bureau also puts effort in improving programs relating to rehabilitation and supervision programs to help prepare reformed drug addicts and inhalants abusers for their return to society.

Precursor Diversion:

The Narcotics Control Bureau, The Department of Pharmaceutical Services and the Royal Brunei Customs and Excise have been given mandate to deal with the precursor chemicals in Brunei Darussalam.

Control of precursor chemicals is administered through the provision made under the Poison Act, Chapter 114 and the Misuse of Drug Act, Chapter 27. All precursors chemicals under international control as listed under table I and II, Article 12 of the 1988 Convention, are also listed under both Acts.

In Brunei Darussalam, Chemical industries dealing with precursor are licensed and they are required to comply with the rules and regulations. So far, no diversion of precursor has been encountered and there is also no information received on the existence of clandestine laboratory in Brunei Darussalam.

Conclusion.

Drug issue is always a priority for the Government. In combating all forms of drug-related crimes, the government has set up the National Task Force Committee on Criminal Law and National Committee on Security. Members of both committees consists of various law enforcement authorities and other relevant agencies responsible for social and criminal activities.

The Narcotics Control Bureau always foresee that joint-operations and investigation with other law enforcement agencies, might it be at local or regional levels are the main thrust to a successful enforcement. With regard to this, the Narcotics Control Bureau has continuously enhanced its consented efforts in fighting against drug abuse and trafficking as well as matters in relation to the international drug syndicate. By doing so, the drug problem could be minimized.