

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The drug problem is regarded as a global issue that all nations face, with negative consequences for national security and well-being. This phenomenon had not spared Malaysia. Even though law enforcement, including the government, has coordinated various prevention measures, Malaysia's drug-related problem remains unresolved.

1.2 Background

In Malaysia, drug trafficking, smuggling, addiction, and abuse have become a major problem that poses a threat to national security. The success of syndicates in crossing the border poses a threat to the integrity of Malaysia's borders. The illegal smuggling into Malaysia is seen as blinding the credibility of the country that its borders was unable to be effectively secured (Zarina et al., 2015).

According to United Nations (UN) (2021), drug trafficking and smuggling are growing significantly every day. Malaysia also has fully cooperates to avoid the existence of security threats for the country, with international countermeasures such as the Unites States to limit the activities, including serious enforcement and management aspects.

Meanwhile, the production of methamphetamine, cannabis, and various other synthetic drugs in the Golden Triangle such as methamphetamine and ecstasy, has raised awareness, particularly in Malaysia, as some of the drugs are smuggled into

Singapore and Indonesia, making Malaysia a temporary transit hub for drugs (Ministry of Home Affairs Malaysia, 2019).

In addiction issues, according to the United Nations Drug Control Programmed (UNDCP), Malaysia are among the Southeast Asian nations, ranks 5th in the number of drug addicts. Almost 1.2 million Malaysians are drug addicts, a considerable number considering Malaysia's population of 28.3 million. (Asbah Razali, Zainal Madon, 2016). Moreover, in Malaysia, drug abuse has led to an alarming increase of medical and social ills like HIV/AIDS. (Hakimi Abdul Jabar, Malaysia Kini, 2017). The medical and psychological effects of addiction are obvious, as addicts cannot function as normal members of society. They neglect or abuse their families, and eventually require expensive treatment or hospitalization. The issue of drug or substance abuse in Malaysia is a worsening problem (Vicknasingam, 2017).

In the Malaysian context, any activity of sale, distribution and procurement of drugs is a crime under the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1952, which indicates that drug smuggling is an offence and a federal crime applied nationwide. Section 2 of the Act stipulates that drug smuggling covers the manufacture, importation, exportation, storage, concealment, purchase, sale, giving, receiving, and management, transportation, carriage, delivery, acquisition, supply, and the distribution of all prohibited substances.

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transportation, carriage, delivery, acquisition, supply, and the distribution of all prohibited substances.

1.3 Problem Statement

In Malaysia, the drug problem is regarded as a security issue that has yet to be resolved despite the country's designation as a drug-free zone in 2015. After three decades of enacting a comprehensive drug policy since Malaysia declared war on drugs in 2003, The Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), particularly the Narcotics Crime Investigation Department (NCID) has always been serious and committed to combating illicit drug production, trafficking & smuggling, and drug possession in the country. Coinciding with the statement of Ahmad Zahid (2007), Malaysian government has launched National Transformation Programs (NTP) in 2010. Along with the NTP, RMP is also envisioned to become a world class service-oriented police force in the maintenance of peace and security for Malaysia in 2020.

Malaysia is also well-known for being a drug transit country. This large-scale smuggling and distribution activity was identified in 2019, when Malaysia was rocked by the largest drug seizure of all time, 12 tons of cocaine worth RM2.4 billion (US\$ 580 million) smuggled into the Pulau Pinang from Latin American countries (The Straits Times, 2021). Not only that, but the emergence of illegal mega drug processing laboratories that can be dismantled, such as Malaysia's first syabu laboratory in Semenyih in 2004; a mega syabu laboratory in Lunas, Kedah in 2006. Malaysia's first eramin laboratory in Tebrau, Johor in 2009, and Malaysia's largest ecstasy pill laboratory in Mergong, Kedah in 2011, is a challenge for Malaysia to deal with (Ramli Din, 2020). It is even more concerning when 1,963 children and teenagers under the age of 18 are involved with drugs. (Agensi Anti Dadah Kebangsaan -

AADK, 2021). This situation demonstrates that the drug problem in this country is very serious because it can harm society and lead to the destruction of the social system.

As a result, this study has been expanded to explore NCID staff's experience in dealing with the drug situation as a mediator to Malaysia. The exploration of this experience indirectly creates a space for the community to share information. This discovery is thought to have the potential to improve drug combating efforts and change the public's perception that drug combating is not solely the responsibility of law enforcement. This type of discussion is expected to provide a more detailed picture that will assist authorities in dealing with and controlling the country's drug problem more effectively.

1.4 Research Questions

This study will answer the following research questions:

- 1.4.1 What is the drug situation in Malaysia in terms of the NCID's focus?
- 1.4.2 What are the issues on combating drug in Malaysia from NCID's perspectives?

1.5 Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are:

- 1.5.1 To analyze the drug situation in Malaysia in terms of the Narcotic Criminal Investigation Department's focus.
- 1.5.2 To identify the issue in drug combating in Malaysia from narcotic personnel.

1.6 Research Method

This is a qualitative study that combines primary and secondary data. The primary data for this study has been derived from interviews sessions with RMP's narcotic personnel. The interview questions will be held in semi-structured in-depth interview. Further, this study relied on the secondary data of books, book chapters, journals, official reports, thesis, newspaper reports, conference papers and other internet materials. Resources needed from library are NCID's RMP Library, and Islamic Science University of Malaysia (USIM) Library.

1.7 Significance of Research

This study will broaden our knowledge on Malaysia. Furthermore, the exchange of ideas and opinions from individuals who are experts in this sector through interview sessions can assist NCID members in dealing with difficult situations at work. Sharing this experience can also raise community awareness and participation in drug combating efforts; and this study will be more meaningful if the study's findings can be applied and adapted for the determination of RMP's focus, allowing drug combating operations to be implemented in a more relevant and successful manner.

1.8 Research Limitations

The first limitation identified in the study's implementation is that my research will focus on the role of RMP in efforts to combating drugs, particularly drug trafficking and smuggling, as well as drug possession only. Therefore, this study does not cover drug addiction, treatment, or rehabilitation because that is the responsibility of other organization. Furthermore, this study is based on the thoughts and personal

experiences of only six police officers who will be interviewed. This means that the study's findings do not reflect the views of all RMP's members. The lack of materials related to the research topic also causes constraints during the production of the literature review. Previous studies only focused on one issue at a time, whereas this study will cover all drug issues in Malaysia, including trafficking & smuggling, possession, and the law.

1.9 Definition of Terms

Some basic concepts such as combating, drug issue, RMP, Anti Narcotic Personnel are described in this study.

1.9.1 Combating Drug issue:

- 1.9.1.1 Combat: Combat is fighting that takes place in a war. (Collin English Dictionary)
- 1.9.1.2 Drug: Drugs are substances that some people take because of their pleasant effects, but which are usually illegal (Collin English Dictionary)
- 1.9.1.3 Combating Drug issue: All activities related to the RMP's efforts to combat drug trafficking, smuggling, and drug possession from a legal standpoint in Malaysia.

a) Drug Trafficking & Smuggling

Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. Drug smuggling, also known as drug importation, involves moving drugs from one state to another or even one country to another, is the

crime of transporting an illegal drug or controlled substance from one country to another in violation of federal law.

b) Drug Possession

The legal concept of “possession” requires three main ingredients to be proven - Custody, control, and knowledge. These three ingredients form both the act and the mental element (the intention or knowledge of wrong doing) necessary to find someone guilty of possession of drugs.

c) Law / Legal issue in drug

Any issues related to drug law/legal in Malaysia.

1.9.2 Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) :

The Royal Malaysia Police (often abbreviated RMP) (Malay: Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), is a (primarily) uniformed national and federal police force in Malaysia. The force is a centralized organisation. Its headquarters are located at Bukit Aman, Kuala Lumpur. The constitution, control, employment, recruitment, funding, discipline, duties and powers of the police force are specified and governed by the Police Act 1967.

1.9.3 Anti Narcotic Personnel:

A member of RMP's departments, specifically the Narcotics Crime Investigation Department. The function of this department is to combat dangerous drugs by enforcing the law in order to stop and reduce the demand and supply of dangerous drugs.

1.10 Chapter Conclusion

This chapter has presented the early framework for this research. It has established the effort of Malaysia especially NCID in combating drug in Malaysia. The problem statement has clearly stated the needs of more in-depth information regarding drug issue in Malaysia to improve drug combating efforts and change the public's perception that drug combating is not solely the responsibility of law enforcement. Two research questions and limitations study are informed with the significance of this research and clear definition are stated throughout the research.

