

CHAPTER IV : FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of this study was to analyze the drug situation in Malaysia in terms of the NCID's priorities and to pinpoint problems with Malaysia's Combating drug efforts. It was anticipated that experience from narcotics professionals serving in NCID would be accessed. This chapter will include the study's findings, including the respondent's demographics, experiences, and any problems relating combating drug in Malaysia as well as the difficulties they encountered while carrying out their duties.

4.2 Demographic Information of the Respondents

This section describes the demographic information of the respondents. There are 5 respondents involved in this study and all of them are police personnel with different ranks who currently a master in their possession with at least 10 years experiences as a NCID's member. The demographic profile of the respondents is as indicated in table 1. To preserve the confidentiality of the respondents, their original names have been substituted with symbol R1 to R5. Alphabet R refers to Respondent. The following descriptions of the respondents provide readers with a brief life story and demographic profile of the respondents.

Table 1: Demographic Information of the respondents.

No	Name	Working Experience in NCID	Place of service
1	R1	22	Bukit Aman
2	R2	17	Selangor
3	R3	12	Selangor
4	R4	15	Bukit Aman
5	R5	10	Bukit Aman

Respondent 1 (R1)

R1 is a Supt. officer who is 51 years old. He has 33 years of RMP service, 23 of which were spent at NCID. He began his career in 1990 as a low-ranking officer and was elevated to the level of police officer after serving for ten years. served in NCID from 2001 to 2023. He gained experience at NCID in a few divisions, including investigation, legal, administration (secretariat of narcotics), and was also a cadre at NADA for three years.

Respondent 2 (R2)

R2, a 47-year-old officer with the rank of Supt, is also an officer. has 18 years of PDRM service, all of which he has spent working at NCID. He worked in Johor, Kuala Lumpur, and Selangor since served at NCID. possesses expertise in the areas of operational, legal, and investigative narcotics. was involved in extensive narcotics seizure operations and the destruction of illicit drug production facilities.

Respondent 3 (R3)

R3, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in the police force. 39 years old. She began working as a police officer in 2007. She had spent four of her sixteen years

of service working for the Crime Investigation Department (CID). During work, she is continuing study at University Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) in the Specialty Program for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SPADA) as a postgraduate student. She was employed at NCID after completing her studies. She has had the chance to work in two divisions at NCID throughout the course of his 12 years there, namely investigation and legislation.

Respondent 4 (R4)

R4, a capable and knowledgeable female officer in the investigation of the need to seize the belongings of people detained on suspicion of drug trafficking. She decided to pursue her studies at USIM in SPADA because of her intense interest in the drug field. Throughout her 16 years of service since 2007, this officer has spent all her service working exclusively in the NCID's forfeiture of property department. Now she holds the position of Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP).

Respondent 5 (R5)

R5, a corporal (KPL) in the NCID, is 38 years old. Possess 10 years of expertise in the division of drug operations. Constantly engaged in activities involving drug cartels, traffickers, and addicts. He worked for 8 years as a general duty member who conducted administrative chores at the police station before transferred to NCID.

Summary of Respondents

My experience conducting interviews with all respondents has been useful in identifying the substance and essence I need to address this brief research topic. Even while each respondent's experience is unique to them and does not speak for all NCID members, they were all able to help researchers acquire the data and opinions researchers needed to answer the study question.

4.3 Research Findings Based on Research Questions

The purpose of the study was to analyze the drug situation and identify the issue in drug combating in Malaysia from narcotic personnel's experiences. In addition to the experience, knowledge and skills of respondents were also taken based on the position they held. The diversity of service departments and the difference in years of service complement each other's findings in this thesis. There were two research questions that have been developed to guide the researcher, which were:

- i. To analyze the drug situation in Malaysia in terms of the NCID's focus.
- ii. To identify the issue in drug combating in Malaysia from narcotic personnel.

After the data collection process with all respondents, the finding below was obtained. The finding from the interviewed was based on the analysis by coding the respondent's experiences. Several codes of experiences appeared in the interview of all or most respondents and will represent in this chapter. All the explanations will be supported with the quotation form the interview with the respondents.

4.4 Finding of Research Question 1:

What is the drug situation in Malaysia in terms of the NCID's focus?

As an individual involved in the drug enforcement department, it is a duty to always know the current drug situation so that the activities of combating drug abuse and drug trafficking achieve their goals. All respondents were seen to be able to give their views on the drug situation in Malaysia through their experiences under two major themes, namely the drug threat trend and NCID's focus on fighting drugs in Malaysia. From these two major themes, there were several sub-themes faced by research

respondents that give more understanding to the researcher on the context of drug situation in Malaysia.

The Drug threat trend arose with 3 sub-themes, the first of which are a) Threat of Smuggling/trafficking b) Threat of Drug Possession and C) Threat of Drug Legal/law. While the second theme, NCID's focus on combating drugs spawned 5 sub-themes, which are as follows 1) against drug smuggling, 2) restricting the supply of drug, 3) Intensifying national and international network, 4) Strengthening and enhancing the implementation of forfeiture of property and 5) To be a partner in rehabilitation.

Table 2: Themes and sub themes derived from interview transcripts based on Research Question 1:

Research Question 1	What is the drug situation in Malaysia in terms of the Narcotic Crime Investigation Department's focus?
Theme	Sub themes
Drug threat trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Threat of smuggling/trafficking b) Threat of drug possession c) Threat of drug legal /law
NCID's focus on combating drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Against drug smuggling b) Restricting the supply of drug c) Intensifying national and international network d) Strengthening and enhancing the implementation of forfeiture of property e) To be a partner in rehabilitation

4.4.1 The Drug Threat Trend

Based on a report from the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) 2019, drug syndicates not only carry out drug distribution and drug smuggling activities

but are also involved in money laundering activities with billions of USD transactions. It is estimated that 86,563 tons were successfully distributed around the world with a value of USD 426 billion to USD 652 billion within a year. Drug trafficking activities are in the second position in the list of cross-border crimes. The lucrative profits resulting from this illegal activity is a great loss to the world not only from a financial factor but also from a humanitarian and security point of view. This situation poses a threat to the world. In order to explain the respondent's opinion regarding the drug threat trend in Malaysia, some sub themes are used and the descriptions are as follow:

a) Threat of Drug Smuggling/Trafficking

Smuggling and trafficking are not recent problems in Malaysia. Some respondents voiced their unhappiness with Malaysia's drug problem, which puts the nation's well-being at risk due to drug smuggling and trafficking. This is because there are many different ways to operate and because technology has its limitations.

“Drug syndicates are always in the lead when it comes to drug smuggling and trafficking. Drugs are smuggled into our country in a variety of ways. If we don't stop this trafficking trend, it will harm the nation.” (R2)

"When our country has advanced technology to track the entry and exit of drugs in this country, we will be able to avoid the threat of drug distribution and smuggling that plagues the country." (R4)

"The use of drones to monitor the country's borders can prevent drugs from being smuggled into the country. However, we do not have the specific expertise to handle this technology. Non-holistic use affects drug eradication efforts in the border areas of the country." (R5)

b) Threat of Drug Possession

The threat of drug possession is related to the present drug situation in Malaysia. The respondent understood the threat from the drug possession issue to be present when it reached a high statistical level. The reply further mentioned that it was the prosecution's job to show that the substance belonged to the defendant, and that job fell to the police and the deputy public prosecutor.

"The number of addicts and drug users increases every year. This can be seen from the data provided by NADA and RMP, especially NCID." (R2)

"To ensure that a conviction in criminal possession case, the burden of proof lies with the prosecution. We are aware that knowledge, custody, and control are necessary components for carrying out the charge. The issue that is currently occurring is that the accused would typically exaggerate the notion that they have been wronged by the police by claiming that when they were detained, they did not have any drugs on them but that there were drugs in the police report. Although there are no

eyewitnesses who can affirm, the deputy prosecutor may occasionally find it challenging to provide charge orders because of this problem.” (R3)

"Society views these addicts as patients who require defense, comprehension, and assistance. However, the law has said that depending on the weight of the substance, the punishment is either a fine or prison time when this addict is discovered and in possession of drugs. It will be challenging for the police to fulfil their duties because of the conflicting perceptions of the community and the police. This demonstrates how violent the police are. As opposed to that, all police activities in Malaysia are compliant with the law.” (R1)

c) Threat of Drug Legal

All of the respondents believed that the country's legal system is also in danger due to the present drug problem. Several instances were brought up that demonstrate the necessity to evaluate and change several laws in this nation in light of the current drug crisis.

“Since before independence, the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1952 has been in effect. I can see that the current law does not fit with the drug situation as it is. This is so that it can be used as a drug processing and transit hub in Malaysia. The current act

does not go into additional detail on this subject. To make this law more applicable, it needs to be improved.” (R2)

“The punishment for owning and picking crabs in the past was merely RM10,000, according to section 30(3) of the Poisons Act of 1952. However, the penalty for having kratom has now been raised to RM30,000. This law's change is excellent because it forewarns kratom leaf merchants that harsher penalties are coming for their transgressions. This poison law still has to be reviewed, though, as it only mentions that collecting and possessing kratom leaves are offence, whereas planting kratom is not a crime because it can spread widely. A wild kelp cannot develop parallel to one another like a cultivated field. Consequently, it is necessary to state the justification of kratom that lives wildly and kratom that is planted so that a party who should be involved in planting kratom is also brought to court.” (R3)

"Previously we did not use Section 39C of the DDA 1952, which means heavier penalties are taken against repeat drug addicts. When drug cases are on the rise, NCID uses this act as a strategy to reduce the presence of hardcore addicts in the community." (R1)

"In the past, section 39B of the DDA of 1952's penal code required the death penalty for drug trafficking offence. However, since the law has been changed, criminals may now receive a hanging or life sentence. The drug threat now has the effect of easing the act for the offense of drug trafficking." (R4)

4.4.2 NCID's Focus on Combating Drugs

The formulation of this department's goal and vision is NCID's primary area of attention. The common objective and direction of all NCID initiatives is to make Malaysia a drug-free nation. Every component of the NCID operates according to a predetermined focus. All respondents who participated in interviews acknowledged that the NCID's emphasis on combating drugs is still relevant. NCID is actively working to see that this focus is carried out. The following sub theme are used to group the responses to the five NCID focuses:

a) Against drug smuggling

NCID has established Secretariat Narcotic Nucleus (SNN) strongholds in a few states along the nation's borders to thwart drug smuggling activities. Additionally, NCID emphasizes the importance of member integrity, which is what leads to drug importation into the nation. The global trend of drug trafficking is another factor contributing to the smuggling of narcotics into this area. The respondents shared their opinions on this matter.

“RMP, under the International Relations Intelligence Division, has constructed SNN in a few states along the NCID border,

including SNN Kedah-Perlis, SNN Kelantan, SNN Perak, and SNN Sabah, to stop the importation of narcotics into Malaysia. It is the responsibility of the SNN to gather intelligence data on drug activity in the states that border other nations, specifically in Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Additionally, Sarawak, which is near West Kalimantan, North Kalimantan, and Brunei, needs to have an SNN built.” (R1)

“This smuggling problem will persist and never be resolved. The Director of NCID always warns officials and members that NCID would not compromise if they are involved in accepting bribes for letting drugs to be transported into Malaysia. Smugglers will look for loopholes in officials to allow forbidden substances to be brought into the country.” (R4)

“One of the key issues in the difficulty of combating drugs around the world, including Malaysia, is the increase in large-scale drug manufacture without oversight in the source country, which is the golden triangle. Large-scale drug seizures have been made in China, Australia, Japan, Uruguay, the Netherlands, and other countries throughout the world, including those in Southeast Asia like Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Malaysia.” (R3)

b) Restricting the Supply of Drug

Various methods implemented by NCID to suppress drug trafficking. Among the respondents' statements related to the NCID's focus is increasing arrests (more focus on possession arrests), empowering drug information, conducting large-scale operations. As the testimony from the respondent.

“The tagline, "There is no day without an arrest," has been upheld by NCID from the beginning to the present. The amount of drug demand will decline after the arrest. This demonstrates that NCID focuses on initiatives to reduce drug demand.” (R4)

"All drug trafficking information is taken action by NCID. No term drug information that is channeled is ignored by officers and members. Whether the information comes from the public, from registered sources or drug information obtained from NCID members themselves will still be taken into account and implemented. Quality information will be researched and developed to produce better arrests and seizures.” (R1)

"One of the ways to curb drug demand is to arrest drug kingpins. When the kingpin is arrested the drug, supply is cut off. NCID's Operational Intelligence Division always focuses on implementing OPS that destroys this drug trafficking syndicate. Each state has its own OPS name, for example OPS Waja in Kuala Lumpur and OPS Sengat in Selangor. At the

Bukit Aman level, an example of OPS busting drug syndicates with large-scale drug seizures is OPS Finch involving drug syndicates operating around Johor, Penang and Indonesia, OPS Falcon launching operations involving 3 states namely Penang, Kedah and Kuala Lumpur and OPS Heron & OPS Water which are operations are 2 big syndicates that smuggle drugs to Sabah and Indonesia." (R2)

c) **Intensifying National and International Network**

Without the cooperation of all parties, local and foreign, it will be impossible to successfully arrest and seize drugs. Being aware of this circumstance, NCID has always cultivated positive relationships with numerous parties concerned. Many respondents witnessed NCID work to perfect the chosen emphasis.

"The information obtained from good cooperation at the local and international level can result in the arrest and seizure of large-scale drugs" (R2)

"Usually when an arrest is made involving a foreign country, whether the arrest is made abroad of a Malaysian citizen or the person arrested is a foreign citizen, we will hold a case study coordination meeting with the country concerned. Cooperation between these countries will help in unraveling the drug

problem of the two countries in particular and the world in general" (R3)

"To confiscate the property of these drug dealers, whether inside the country or abroad, is not an easy matter. However, with the collaboration of the Asset Forfeiture Division with the Bank Negara Malaysia, the World Bank, local and international banks, the investigating officer can conduct the investigation more efficiently." (R4)

"Malaysia enjoys positive relationships with other nations in the country's struggle against narcotics. In order to expand the network of international cooperation for drug eradication, bilateral meetings will be arranged with other nations. To address combating drug operations in Malaysia, NCID collaborates with a number of public and corporate departments on a nationwide basis. Consider the Meeting of the Anti-Drug Action Council, NADA, Ministry of Defense (MOF), Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Education (MOE), Malaysian Immigration Department, Royal Malaysian Custom Department (RMC), Malaysian Prison Department, Social Welfare Department, PENGASIH Malaysia Association, and other departments are among those involved." (R1)

d) Strengthening and Enhancing the Implementation of Forfeiture of Property

The NCID has concentrated on the Forfeiture of Property Department to take action in confiscating the property of these drug dealers since they understand that being involved in drug trafficking takes a lot of money for the purpose of buying and selling. The respondent described the actions taken by NCID to ensure the success of the focus during the interview with the respondent.

"For your information, the Forfeiture of Property Department will launch a parallel inquiry to locate the properties of drug dealers whenever there is an arrest made in accordance with Section 39B of the DDA 1952. Arrests and significant drug seizures on the part of the Forfeiture of Property Department will not be successful if the seizures are not made against drug dealers. By seizing property, NCID can both stifle drug trafficking organizations' financial and resource capacities as well as put an end to their operations." (R4)

"Since the income they acquired before wasn't taxed, the NCID's success in seizing drug syndicate property can help the country's economy." (R2)

"From a legal perspective, the burden of proof for cases investigated under forfeiture of property rests with the accused.

The accused must prove himself that the property to be confiscated is not property obtained from drug trafficking activities and convince the court about the source of the property. Even so, it does not mean that the duty of the investigating officer of the Forfeiture of Property Department is easy, but requires a high level of effort and seriousness. Thus, NCID often sends Forfeiture of Property Investigation Officers to courses that increase their level of competence in the field of investigation.” (R3)

e) To be a partner in rehabilitation

Drug combating effort will not be successful as long as these drug addicts or users do not receive proper rehabilitation. Therefore, at the government level, NADA has carried out responsibilities in rehabilitation efforts while there are many private drug rehabilitation centers which are rehabilitation institutions for drug addicts run by individuals or Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) such as PENGASIH, PEMADAM and others. In order to ensure that the government's drug eradication efforts are carried out in tandem with the responsible parties, NCID has placed its focus on being a partner in rehabilitation. The reaction from the respondents for this NCID focus is as below.

"Although arresting and seizing drugs is NCID's primary responsibility, NCID is nonetheless dedicated to supporting AADK's rehabilitation efforts. The fact that RMP recruited

multiple officer to join the Board of Visitors at PUSPEN throughout Malaysia is evidence.” (R1)

“NCID participates in drug displays booth in the neighborhood and at the school level. While that mission is AADK primary responsibility.” (R5)

“Since October 2010, AADK has been solely in charge of the mission of apprehending drug users who are the subject of investigations under the Drugs (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act 1983. Despite the fact that NCID no longer initiates an inquiry under the act, if the addict is turned over to the AADK for additional action, NCID will do so if the arrest made does not involve drugs or circumstances that cannot be handled in accordance with Section 15(1)(a) of the Dangerous Drug Act of 1952.” (R3)

4.5 Finding of Research Question 2:

What are the Issues on Combating Drug in Malaysia from NCID Perspectives?

In general, the researcher has divided the two factors internal and external that are the focus of RQ 2 into (2) categories. The strength of human resources, integrity, and logistical issues are the three sub-themes for internal factors, while the geography factor, virtual challenge, existence of

new psychoactive substances (NPS), modus operandi (MO), drug mules, and drug law and legal are the six sub-themes for external factors. The challenges surrounding the fight against drugs in Malaysia are depicted in Table 3 from the viewpoints of NCID.

Table 3: Themes and sub themes derived from interview transcripts based on Research Question 2:

Research Question 2	What are the issues on combating drug in Malaysia from NCID perspectives
Theme	Sub themes
Internal Factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Human Resources Strength b) Integrity c) Logistics Facilities and Infrastructure Development
External Factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Geography Factor b) Virtual Challenge c) Existence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) d) Modus Operandi (MO) e) Drug Mules Drug Law

4.5.1 Internal Factor

a) Human Resources Strength

The key to success is having the right human resources. All respondents agreed that increasing staffing at the NCID is necessary to battle the drug problem more effectively in this nation. Because more people are being jailed for drug charges every year while the NCID's

workforce remains static, the shortage of human resources there is regarded as important.

"We are dealing with the number one drug opponent in Malaysia, but just 4% of the RMP employees nationwide is dedicated to this task. a relatively small proportion. Additional employees must be hired to carry out anti-drug efforts in their entirety." (R3)

"The staffing shortage is a serious issue. In Malaysia, where there aren't enough members, a member must concentrate on three other tasks: escort responsibilities, intelligence duties, and operational duties. Due to this circumstance, the responsibilities assigned are less effective; for instance, the intelligence information obtained cannot be developed." (R5)

"The NCID's strength in Malaysia is just about 5,000 personnel, which is truly insufficient to handle the growing number of drug offenders. Narcotics staff needs to be strengthened. There are 130,000 people who use drugs in Malaysia, according to AADK statistics published in 2022, which is a significant number when compared to NCID workers." (R1)

"It is challenging to complete job when there is insufficient staffing. The largest district in the State of Johor, Kota Tinggi,

has 29 Felda, yet the staff of NCID members who oversee the entire Kota Tinggi area is less than 20 individuals. I used to work in Johor. They must do administrative, operational, operational intelligence, and investigative activities.” (R2)

“We should increase the number of drug enforcement officers because we haven't done so in a while. However, the RMP, particularly the NCID, needs to provide a thorough reason before moving forward to prevent objections from other parties. Drug eradication initiatives can be carried out more methodically and successfully in this way.” (R4)

b) Integrity

All of the respondent concurred that NCID members with integrity issues hinder attempts to reduce drug use in Malaysia.

“Integrity is a form of identity that must be upheld in order to safeguard the team's reputation. RMP, in particular NCID, is widely referred to in the community as a bribe victim.” (R2)

“When NCID members lack high integrity, one of Malaysia's drug problems is never resolved. If there is no trust, there are various methods to make money.” (R3)

"Power abuse is a potential whenever there is power. Bribes are offered to these officers or policemen by those who are desperate to be released. They will undoubtedly take a bribe, which is typically paid for, if they lack ethics." (R4)

"The truth that not everyone is good cannot be denied. The same is true for RMP. The majority of times when someone is arrested, especially in drug situations, bribes are given in the hope that they will be released." (R1)

"The issue of corruption is one of the reasons why Malaysia is still failing in the fight against drugs". (R5)

c) Logistics Facilities and Infrastructure Development

Technology, capital, and vehicles are all included in the development of adequate logistics facilities and infrastructure for NCID. The respondents genuinely acknowledge the problems encountered.

"Without logistical support, NCID's efforts to totally remove the drug problem will be severely restricted." (R4)

"It is greatly anticipated that a welcoming and peaceful work environment would inspire excellent work spirit. For instance, a narcotics complex with more than 500 residents cannot support

the number of staff members working there due to the confined location, crumbling buildings, lack of office space, and lack of parking. NCID employees occasionally have to wait a long time at the office to receive the strike order; this unpleasant work environment has a negative impact on motivation.” (R2)

"The significant progress NCID has made from the past to the present is not consistent with the current logistic assistance. As a result of the loss of many vehicles and the lack of replacements, several NCID members are forced to face the danger of utilizing their own automobiles for work. Sad to say, dear vehicles and automobiles that are more than 20 years old are still in service. Due to a shortage of funding, damaged vehicles are very slowly being restored.” (R1)

"RMP is over 200 years old; it should get better as it ages, but NCID is still behind in terms of technology. If we can provide sophisticated drug detection equipment to districts and contingents, drug eradication efforts will be more successful. For now, because budget constraints, only the Bukit Aman Police Headquarters has a lot of sophisticated machinery." (R3)

4.5.2 External Factor

a) Geography Factor

The geographical location of Malaysia in the midst of nations that produce drugs, according to all five respondents, makes it challenging for Malaysia to address the drug problem.

"It is impossible to change this geographic aspect. Our nation, Malaysia, is strategically located. Our nation has developed into a trading hub since the Malay sultanate, and the drug trade is no exception." (R4)

"Malaysia does not produce drugs, yet it is frequently used as a country for drug transit. Because it is situated in the middle of the route taken by international drug cartels and because there is no strict border control, whether it be at the country's entrance or in "rat/elephant alleys," Malaysia is frequently used as a country for drug transit." (R1)

"You are aware that Malaysia is adjacent to the golden triangle. In addition to producing methamphetamine and cannabis, this golden triangle is the world's largest producer of heroin." (R5)

"If seen from a geographical perspective, the risk of drugs entering our country, whether it is utilized as a transit point or for the use of Malaysian users, is very significant due to the proximity of the international boundary between Malaysia and Thailand through the Golok River. Because of the great distance separating the beaches of Malaysia and Indonesia, it is

challenging to conduct ongoing enforcement activities. Furthermore, Malaysia's border is surrounded by a sizable, steep forest." (R3)

"The proximity of Malaysia to the drug-producing nations of the Golden Triangle is a contributing element in Malaysia's never-ending drug problem. Additionally, the ability of the inhabitants of this nation to effectively communicate in English, the universal language, plays a part in this. As a result, it is simple to buy, sell, or transport drugs in this nation." (R2)

b) Virtual challenge

Border less world. The development of technology is increasingly perceived as having drawbacks for efforts to eradicate drugs, which has encouraged online drug shopping. Because the suspect might alter his profile image at any time to mislead the police, it is difficult to prove that this online purchase was made. The respondents described how they dealt with this circumstance.

"Distributors/suppliers are now getting smarter about using the internet for drug business. If they are smart, we have to be smarter than them." (R3)

"Drug sales can be done on the "Dark Web". The dark web is an internet structure that hides the identity of the buyer. 'Deep Web' can be done by logging into the website but the web

content will not appear on search engines. Therefore, it is difficult for law enforcement to detect this kind of drug activity" (R2)

"During the past Covid-19 season, the sale or purchase of drugs was detected openly on popular e-commerce websites such as Shoppe, Lazada and Carousel. It is possible that the movement control order has limited the business of drug syndicates, so without thinking too much, distribution / sales are more and more boldly promoted on online business lines that are easily accessible to all. NCID has previously confiscated bottles of CBD oil that were sold using the internet platform." (R3)

c) Existence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

According to the UNODC, "substances of abuse, in a pure form or in a preparation, which are not controlled by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention" are referred to as New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). The very rapid emergence of NPS makes it difficult for Malaysia, especially NCID, to curb the spread of this drug issue. (3) respondents shared their knowledge about this NPS as follows: -

"There are actually a lot of NPS drugs in the world market, until the beginning of 2022 as many as 1,182 NPS were reported by 139 countries, but until today in Malaysia only 86 NPS have been listed in the 1952 Narcotic Drugs Act and the

1952 Poisons Act. Until now registered in the act, we cannot arrest let alone prosecute those who use this NPS. We know the process to register in the deed is very difficult and time consuming. That is one of the reasons why drugs are still prevalent in this country." (R1)

"I have read a report released by UNODC in 2012, Asian countries are the second largest users of NPS after the United States. The study said that, many Asian countries have become the main producers of NPS drugs because these Asian countries are advanced in manufacturing technology." (R2)

"This NPS was created to mimic the effects of existing drugs but the addictive effects are worse and can cause death because they are mixed with various chemicals." (R4)

d) Modus Operandi (MO)

Criminals learn their modus operandi (MO), which evolves as they gain experience and confidence. The criminals continuously modify their tactics to suit the demands of the crime, yet their defining traits continue to be constant and persistent. It is now believed that drug smuggling and trafficking are evolving aggressively, making it more difficult for law enforcement to pinpoint the syndicate's operational strategies.

(4) The respondents agreed that MO is one among the issues fueling the proliferation of drugs in this country.

"Smuggling and drug trafficking syndicates are always trying to bring drugs into the country using various trends in the modus operandi of smuggling. Examples of smuggling operative trends are hiding drugs in furniture, rooms in modified luggage and plastic items, in food packaging, replicas/sculptures of animal heads and others." (R2)

"The modus operandi is always changing. There was a time when many cases involved the confiscation of drugs that were packed on the body or by swallowing. If the drug is swallowed, the investigating officer has to wait until the drug comes out when the arrest defecates." (R5)

"... the cause of drugs still being abundant in this country is the wisdom of drug offenders to change their modus operandi. If the MO always changes, it's hard to influence their wrong activities." (R4)

"Drug trafficking and smuggling can occur on land, in the air, and by sea. In recent months, we have made numerous narcotics seizures at sea. A crate registered with other products also had drugs, but they were hidden inside. I recall a time when a lot of narcotics were delivered via packages from businesses that provide courier services." (R3)

e) **Drug Mules**

A person who knowingly agrees to act as a courier for the purpose of transporting drugs or other illegal goods to another nation is referred to as a drug mule. This strategy lowers the likelihood that the drug trafficker will be apprehended. Drug mules are frequently used by drug trafficking organizations to streamline their operations. Women, students, the elderly, and frequently those in need of money are among these drug mules. Respondents described how they dealt with incidents of drug mules.

"In 2021, two candidates for the Malaysian Certificate of Education (SPM) earlier this month exposed the tactics of a drug trafficking syndicate in Kemaman, Pahang who were found to be turning minors into drug donkeys with a wage of only RM40. These two students were aware that they had been set up but did not expect to be caught by the authorities." (R5)

"NCID has established the Narcotics Crime Investigation Division at KLIA in 2020 which was launched by Ex Director of NCID, Datuk Mohd Khalil to combat drug smuggling and trafficking. This is a proactive step taken by NCID to combat drug mules at the airport" (R1)

"I recall the Methamphetamine drug mule case from 2016, involving a 26-year-old Ugandan lady who turned herself in after ingesting 90 of the drug's capsules. It would be fatal if the

medication ruptured in her stomach. In order to prevent these drug mules from escaping, airport security personnel must conduct a comprehensive inspection.” (R3)

f) Drug Law and Legal Issues

We cannot ignore the importance of legal and legislative issues when it comes to enforcement. We must strengthen the Drug Law and Legal Issues in order to demonstrate the success of Malaysia's drug eradication efforts. Decriminalization and concerns relating to hemp plants are two of the legal issues raised by respondents.

"RMP has expressed its disagreement on the issue of decriminalization of section 15(1)(a) DDA 1952 and Section 12(2) DDA 1952. This decriminalization means that drug offenders commit an offence, but are not listed under the drug crime offence. If the decriminalization of section 15(1)(a) DDA 1952 and Section 12(2) DDA 1952 is agreed, the law becomes laxer, drug offenders will continue to commit offenses because their offenses are not recorded. This situation hinders drug combating efforts." (R3)

"The issue of legalizing hemp plants also needs attention. There are attempts by certain groups to legalize the use of dangerous drugs supposedly for alternative and commercial medical purposes. We need to know that it is not easy to supervise hemp plants. This is because a hemp plant that is not properly

supervised will turn into THC which can reach a content similar to that of a cannabis plant. Therefore, as a drug eradication measure, the RMP does not agree to the action to issue hemp seed cultivation licenses." (R1)

4.6 Chapter Conclusion

This chapter summarized the study's findings and offered the themes obtained from the interviews regarding the respondents' experience, knowledge, and opinions. The majority of respondents, who share their real stories and illustrate the difficulties the NCID faces in battling narcotics, are in a similar situation. The findings focus on the drug trend in Malaysia, where drugs are becoming more dangerous from the perspectives of drug trafficking and smuggling, drug possession, and legal drug use. However, everyone who responded agreed that NCID has made every effort to concentrate on the drug war. Despite all of NCID's accomplishments, there are still a number of problems with combating drug that need to be highlighted.