

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 1
RUANGAN : MUKA HADAPAN



AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

28 kawasan larangan merokok diwartakan di bawah Akta 852

Seluruh kawasan bangunan tempat kerja termasuk sempadan pagar premis tersenarai tempat larangan

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Putrajaya: Bangunan tempat kerja, termasuk kawasan di dalam lingkungan sempadan pagar atau tanah lot premis turut diwartakan sebagai kawasan larangan merokok di bawah Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 (Akta 852).

Larangan merokok itu termasuk penggunaan rokok elektro-

nik seperti disenaraikan dalam Warta Kerajaan Persekutuan mengenai Perintah Akta 852 yang berkuat kuasa 1 Oktober lalu.

Berdasarkan perintah itu, penguatkuasaan larangan merokok membabitkan keseluruhan kawasan premis, termasuk mana-mana kawasan di dalam bangunan atau kawasan sekitar bangunan itu.

Bangunan tempat kerja, termasuk kerajaan dan swasta adalah antara kategori tersenarai dalam 28 kawasan larangan merokok yang diwartakan di bawah Akta 852.

Turut disenaraikan adalah bangunan dobi dengan larangan itu membabitkan mana-mana kawasan di dalam bangunan, termasuk kaki lima dan di dalam lingkungan jarak tiga meter daripada bangunan itu.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata larangan merokok membabitkan

bangunan dobi antara diperjuangkannya sejak 2019 ketika pertama kali menjawat jawatan berkenaan.

"Pastinya saya bersyukur, akhirnya dobi menjadi tempat awam (larangan merokok)."

"(Bangunan dobi sering) didatangi pastinya ibu, isteri bawa anak dan sebagainya, (kadang-kadang) tempat itu menjadi kawasan untuk berehat," katanya pada sesi taklimat media berkaitan Akta 852 di sini, semalam.

Selain bangunan dobi dan tempat kerja, kawasan larangan merokok lain yang diwartakan adalah pusat hiburan atau teater kecuali kasino, hospital dan klinik, lif atau tandas awam, tempat makan, kedai berhawa dingin,



Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad

gin serta mana-mana kawasan yang digunakan bagi aktiviti perhimpunan.

Kawasan lain, kompleks beli-belah, stesen minyak, kawasan perpustakaan, kafe internet, kawasan rehat dan rawat kecuali tempat letak kenderaan terbuka, kawasan taman awam dan kompleks sukan.

Sebelum ini, kawasan larangan merokok hanya membabitkan 23 lokasi, namun di bawah Akta 852 ia diperluaskan kepada 28 kawasan.

Tampal tanda amaran

Sementara itu, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Kesihatan Awam), Datuk Dr Norhayati Rusli, berkata tindakan penguatkuasaan yang bermula tahun depan adalah bagi memberi masa secukupnya kepada pemilik premis

untuk menampal tanda amaran larangan merokok.

Akta 852 dikuatkuasakan mulai 1 Oktober lalu dengan mengenakan syarat lebih ketat terhadap peniaga rokok dan vape termasuk larangan mempamerkan produk terbitan secara terbuka di premis perniagaan.

Akta itu juga menggariskan larangan penjualan rokok dan vape melalui dalam talian bagi mengelakkan ia dibeli oleh Orang Belum Dewasa (OBD) iaitu individu berusia di bawah 18 tahun.

Selain itu, produk rokok dan vape juga dilarang dijual melalui mesin vending dan tidak boleh dijual di kawasan institusi pendidikan atau institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT).

Produk rokok dan vape juga dilarang dijual di pasar jualan atau mana-mana pasar jualan bersifat sementara seperti Uptown, Downtown, pasar malam dan sebagainya.

Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 (Akta 852)

Bermula 1 Oktober 2024

- Jualan rokok dan vape dilarang di semua platform dalam talian, mesin vending, institusi pendidikan atau IPT, pasar jualan bersifat sementara seperti Uptown, Downtown dan pasar malam.
- Semua produk merokok dilarang buat pengiklanan, promosi atau tajaan

Bermula 1 Januari 2025

- Bangunan dobi dan tempat kerja kerajaan serta swasta jadi kawasan larangan merokok

Bermula 1 April 2025

- Pamer tanda larangan merokok baharu
- Produk rokok di kedai serbaneka perlu diletakkan dalam rak pameran bertutup
- Premis khas yang jual rokok elektronik perlu pastikan produk tidak boleh dilihat dari luar kedai
- Pamer tanda larangan jualan kepada orang belum dewasa (OBD)
- Semua produk merokok yang ingin diimport, dikilang atau diedar untuk pasaran tempatan perlu berdaftar Bahagian Kawalan Penyakit KKM

Bermula 1 Oktober 2025

- Pembungkusan semua produk rokok perlu ringkas dan papir tanda amaran kesihatan

Akta 852: Tempat Larangan Merokok

- 1 Pusat hiburan atau teater, kecuali kasino.
- 2 Kawasan hospital atau klinik.
- 3 Lif atau tandas awam.
- 4 Tempat makan.
- 5 Kedai berhawa dingin.
- 6 Bangunan dobi (tindakan penguatkuasaan selepas 1 Januari 2025).
- 7 Bangunan hentian pengangkutan awam.
- 8 Kawasan lapangan terbang kecuali kawasan atau bilik merokok yang diluluskan.
- 9 Kawasan premis kerajaan.
- 10 Bangunan Parlimen Malaysia.
- 11 Mana-mana kawasan yang digunakan bagi apa-apa aktiviti perhimpunan sama ada di mana-mana tempat awam atau di dalam sesuatu bangunan selain bangunan kediaman atau persendirian.
- 12 Kawasan institusi pendidikan atau institusi pendidikan tinggi.
- 13 Kawasan taman asuhan kanak-kanak.
- 14 Kaunter perkhidmatan awam.
- 15 Kompleks beli-belah.
- 16 Kawasan stesen minyak.
- 17 Bangunan stadium, pusat keergasan atau gimnasium.
- 18 Kawasan kompleks sukan.
- 19 Bangunan atau tempat awam yang digunakan untuk tujuan keagamaan.
- 20 Kawasan perpustakaan.
- 21 Kafe internet.
- 22 Kawasan tempat latihan khidmat negara.
- 23 Bangunan tempat kerja (tindakan penguatkuasaan selepas 1 Januari 2025).
- 24 Kawasan rehat dan rawat kecuali tempat letak kereta awam terbuka.
- 25 Kawasan taman awam kecuali tempat letak kereta awam terbuka.
- 26 Menara cerapan, tapak perkhemahan, titian kanopi dan lima meter dari laluan masuk atau keluar titian kanopi dalam taman negara atau taman negeri.
- 27 Di dalam bas sekolah.
- 28 Di dalam kenderaan awam.

KKM keluar 2,548 notis amaran

Putrajaya: Sebanyak 2,548 notis amaran dikeluarkan kepada pemilik premis serta individu selepas didapati melanggar Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 (Akta 852) yang berkuat kuasa Selasa lalu.

Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Kesihatan Awam), Datuk Dr Norhayati Rusli, berkata notis itu dikeluarkan menerusi penguatkuasaan pendidikan yang dilaksanakan pihaknya susulan pelaksanaan Akta 852.

Katanya, sejak akta itu berkuat kuasa, pihaknya turut mengeluarkan tiga kompaun atas kesalahan merokok.

"Dengan berkuat kuasa Akta 852, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengadakan pemeriksaan di 2,930 premis seluruh negara."

"Sepanjang pemeriksaan itu, kita mengeluarkan sejumlah notis dan notis ini hanya sebagai tindakan penguatkuasaan pendidikan supaya orang ramai tahu mengenai Akta 852," katanya di sini, semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Norhayati menjelaskan, berlaku salah faham apabila ada pihak mendakwa penguat kuasa KKM mengeluarkan notis kompaun kepada pemilik premis.



Infografik BH

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 14
RUANGAN : NEGARA



DR. DZULKEFLY (tiga dari kanan) pada sesi taklimat berhubung Akta 852 di Putrajaya semalam.

Mampu lindungi ibu, wanita serta anak-anak kecil

Dobi, bangunan kerja lokasi larangan rokok

Oleh RIDZAUDDIN ROSLAN

PUTRAJAYA – Premis dobi dan bangunan tempat kerja adalah dua kawasan baharu yang digazetkan sebagai kawasan tempat larangan merokok yang akan mula dikuatkuasakan selepas 1 Januari depan.

Ta antara 28 kawasan yang disenaraikan dalam tempat larangan merokok berbanding 23 lokasi selepas Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 [Akta 852] dikuatkuasakan bermula 1 Oktober lalu.

Penguatkuasaan kawasan baharu itu dibuat secara berfasa dan memberi tempoh tiga bulan kepada premis berkenaan sebelum penguatkuasaan dilaksanakan, manakala tempat larangan merokok yang telah digazet sebelum ini dikuat kuasa berterusan.

Menurut Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad, beliau bersyukur pewartaan

premis dobi sebagai kawasan larangan merokok di bawah Akta 852 selepas perkara itu sudah lama diperjuangkannya ketika beliau menjawat Menteri Kesihatan pada 2019.

"Pastinya saya bersyukur akhirnya dobi jadi tempat kawasan larangan merokok. Ini kerana kawasan itu didatangi ibu-ibu, isteri yang membawa anak-anak kecil memandangkan ia tempat awam," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas sesi taklimat media Akta 852 semalam.

Susulan itu, mana-mana individu yang didapati bersalah merokok atau menggunakan produk merokok di kawasan larangan itu akan dikenakan denda maksimum sebanyak RM5,000.

Bermula Selasa lalu, Akta 852 yang diwartakan pada 2 Februari lalu berkuat kuasa serta-merta dan berfasa, kuasa serentak dengan peraturan-peraturan serta perintah di bawahnya.

Akta 852 bertujuan untuk mengurangkan kemudaratan akibat merokok dan penggunaan lain-lain produk tembakau termasuk rokok elektronik atau vape terutamanya dalam kalangan golongan muda.

Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Kesihatan Awam), Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), Datuk Dr. Norhayati Rusli berkata, sejak penguatkuasaan Akta 852, sejumlah 2,930 premis dilawati melibatkan 108 operasi dilaksanakan dengan kekuatan 1,614 anggota penguat kuasa.

Sepanjang operasi itu katanya, sejumlah 2,548 advokasi pendidikan diedarkan termasuk mengeluarkan tiga kompaun melibatkan kesalahan merokok di kawasan larangan merokok.

"Pelaksanaan Akta 852 melibatkan dua peringkat penguatkuasaan iaitu secara serta-merta dan berfasa iaitu antara enam bulan, setahun dan dua tahun," jelasnya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Premis dobi, tempat kerja kawasan larangan rokok

Tempat terbaharu yang digazetkan KKM bermula selepas 1 Januari 2025

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIKHAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN PUTRAJAYA**

Premis dobi kini menjadi kawasan terbaharu larangan merokok selepas ia digazetkan dalam senarai Tempat Dilarang Merokok di bawah Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 (Akta 852).

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, ia menjadikan sebanyak 28 tempat larangan merokok secara keseluruhannya yang turut memasukkan bangunan tempat kerja sebagai kawasan terbaharu.

"Tindakan penguatkuasaan secara berterusan terhadap kedua-dua tempat ini bermula selepas 1 Januari 2025," katanya ketika sidang akhbar selepas sesi taklimat Akta 852 di sini pada Jumaat.

Menurut beliau, penguatkuasaan dijalankan secara berfasa iaitu dengan tempoh masa diberikan selama tiga bulan kepada pemilik premis berkenaan.

Sebelum ini, hanya bangunan tempat kerja yang mempunyai pendingin hawa digazetkan dalam senarai tempat larangan merokok, namun dengan pertambahan senarai ini, mana-mana premis tempat kerja sama ada terbuka atau mempunyai penamaan udara turut terikat dengan Akta 852.

Selain dua premis berkenaan, antara



Dr Dzulkefly (tengah) bersama Dr Norhayati (dua dari kiri) dan Timbalan Pengarah (Penyakit Tidak Berjangkit), Dr Norayana Hassan (dua dari kanan) menunjukkan logo larangan merokok baharu di Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia, Putrajaya pada Jumaat.

yang telah disenaraikan sebagai tempat larangan adalah bangunan hentian pengangkutan awam, kawasan lapangan terbang kecuali kawasan atau bilik merokok yang telah diluluskan, stadium, pusat keergasan atau gimnasium, kawasan rehat dan rawat (R&R).

Mana-mana individu yang gagal mematuhi berdepan dengan kompaun sehingga RM5,000.

Terdahulu, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Kesihatan Awam), Datuk Dr Norhayati Rusli berkata, sejak bermula penguatkuasaan Akta 852 Selasa lalu, sejumlah 2,930 premis dilawati KKM.

Ia melibatkan 108 operasi dilaksanakan dengan kekuatan 1,614 anggota penguat kuasa seluruh negara.

Sepanjang operasi itu, sebanyak 2,548 notis advokasi pendidikan diedarkan termasuk mengeluarkan tiga kompaun masing-masing berjumlah RM250 melibatkan kesalahan merokok di kawasan larangan.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Norhayati memaklumkan premis diberi masa sehingga enam bulan dari tarikh penguatkuasaan Akta 852 untuk mempamerkan tanda amaran merokok yang baharu.

Tanda amaran merokok itu memaparkan imej rokok dan rokok elektronik selain kod QR yang membawa pelayar ke portal Jom Quit milik kementerian itu.

Ia turut mempunyai beberapa saiz untuk diletakkan di tempat bersesuaian seperti dalam bangunan, kenderaan awam, teks dan e-hailing serta mana-mana laluan.



1. Pusat hiburan atau teater (kecuali kasini)
2. Kawasan hospital atau klinik
3. Liti atau tandas awam
4. Tempat makan
5. Kedai berhawa dingin
6. Bangunan dobi (tindakan penguatkuasaan selepas 1 Januari 2025)
7. Bangunan hentian pengangkutan awam
8. Kawasan lapangan terbang (kecuali kawasan atau bilik merokok yang telah diluluskan)
9. Kawasan premis kerajaan
10. Bangunan Parlimen Malaysia
11. Mana-mana kawasan yang digunakan bagi apa-apa aktiviti persembahan yang ada di mana-mana tempat awam atau di dalam sesuatu bangunan selain bangunan kediaman atau persendirian
12. Kawasan institusi pendidikan atau institusi pendidikan tinggi
13. Kawasan taman asuhan kanak-kanak
14. Kaunter padhadmatan awam
15. Kompleks beli-belah
16. Kawasan stesen minyak
17. Bangunan stadium, pusat keergasan atau gimnasium
18. Kawasan kompleks sukan
19. Bangunan atau tempat awam yang digunakan untuk tujuan kesihatan
20. Kawasan perpustakaan
21. Kafe internet
22. Kawasan tempat latihan khidmat negara
23. Bangunan tempat kerja (tindakan penguatkuasaan selepas 1 Januari 2025)
24. Kawasan rehat dan rawat (kecuali tempat letak kereta awam terbuka)
25. Kawasan taman awam (kecuali tempat letak kereta awam terbuka)
26. Menara cerapan, tapak parkiran, trian kanopi dan lima meter dari laluan masuk atau keluar bilik kanopi dalam tanah negara atau tanah negeri
27. Dalam bas sekolah
28. Dalam kenderaan awam

KKM sasar kadar merokok turun 15 peratus

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menyasarkan amaran merokok konvensional dalam kalangan dewasa menurun kepada 15 peratus menjelang Disember 2025.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, ia susulan penguatkuasaan Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 [Akta 852].

Beliau berkata, Tinjauan Kebangsaan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi 2023 (NHMS 2023) mendapati kadar merokok dalam kalangan berusia 15 tahun ke atas adalah 19 peratus.

"Walaupun kadar penggunaan tembakau telah berkurang daripada 21.3 kepada 19 peratus (NHMS 2019) terdapat peralihan daripada merokok konvensional kepada pengguna rokok elektronik (vape).

"Sekarang kita ada baki empat peratus untuk capai sasaran itu, saya

berharap kita dapat mencapainya menjelang Disember 2025," jelasnya.

Bermula Selasa lalu, Akta 852 yang diwartakan pada 2 Februari lalu berkuatkuasa serta-merta dan berfasa, berkuat kuasa serentak dengan peraturan-peraturan serta perintah di bawahnya.

Akta 852 bertujuan untuk mengurangkan kemudaratan akibat merokok dan penggunaan lain-lain produk tembakau termasuk rokok elektronik atau vape terutama dalam kalangan golongan muda.

Penguatkuasaan itu antara lain membabitkan tempat larangan penjualan produk merokok seperti institusi pendidikan, pasar jualan dalam talian dan mesin layan diri.

Bagi penguatkuasaan pendidikan yang dijalankan secara berfasa pula akan dilaksanakan dahulu bagi tempoh enam sehingga dua tahun daripada tarikh kuat kuasa.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 20
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Beli buku sambil saring kesihatan

Pengunjung boleh buat saringan kesihatan secara percuma pada Jualan Gudang Karangkrak 2024

Oleh NOR SYAZRINA
MUHAMAD TAHIR
SHAH ALAM

Jualan Gudang Karangkrak 2024 pada Jumaat dimeriahkan dengan program saringan kesihatan percuma khas untuk para pengunjung sambil membeli-belah buku menarik.

Pengerusi Panel Penasihat Klinik Kesihatan Seksyen 7, di sini Mohd Fathir Mohd Amin berkata, program itu diadakan atas kerjasama yang baik bersama Kumpulan Karangkrak untuk menjadi penghubung klinik kesihatan bersama masyarakat.

"Kita tahu ada masyarakat yang takut pergi ke klinik kesihatan berdekatan, jadi kita keluar dan bawakan kepada mereka untuk memeriksa masalah kesihatan yang dialami."

"Sebab itu kita masuk ke Karangkrak supaya pengunjung dapat menikmati pemeriksaan kesihatan secara percuma,



Jualan Gudang Karangkrak 2024 turut menyediakan saringan kesihatan percuma pada Jumaat dengan kerjasama Klinik Kesihatan Seksyen 7, Shah Alam.

cepat dan selesa," katanya ketika ditemui di Kompleks Kumpulan Karangkrak di sini pada Jumaat.

Tambahnya, program itu juga mampu mengubah sentimen buruk orang awam terhadap klinik kerajaan sekali gus dapat memeriksa kesihatan mereka bagi mengelak daripada penyakit kronik.

Bagi kakitangan awam, Farah Wahida

Ahmad Faridun, 49, program saringan kesihatan secara percuma itu merupakan inisiatif terbaik untuk menjaga kesihatan para pengunjung yang hadir.

"Ini merupakan satu cara yang baik untuk memberi kesedaran tentang kepentingan menjaga kesihatan. Para pengunjung juga dapat mengetahui tahap kandungan gula, tekanan darah dan indeks jisim tubuh (BMI)."

"Pengunjung bukan sahaja dapat membeli buku-buku menarik di Karangkrak tetapi juga dapat memeriksa kesihatan secara percuma. Jadi saya harap inisiatif seperti ini diteruskan lagi pada masa hadapan," ujarnya.

Menurut Nur Farah Imani Hairol Azha, 22, pemernsaaan kesihatan tersebut tidak berhenti di program itu sahaja, sebaliknya mereka yang bermasalah akan diberi nasihat untuk pergi ke klinik kesihatan berdekatan bagi mendapatkan keputusan kesihatan yang lebih tepat.

Jelasnya, petugas kesihatan juga memberikan khidmat dan layanan yang baik serta cuba memenuhi setiap kehendak pengunjung yang mempunyai masalah.

"Kalau kita malas nak beratur di klinik kesihatan, dekat sini kita boleh terus dapatkan khidmat kesihatan dengan cepat."

"Saya diberitahu bahawa ini bukan kali

REAKSI

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Banyak pilihan al-Quran di Karangkrak, saya boleh pilih mengikut cita rasa yang saya mahu. Sebagai contoh, al-Quran yang bersaiz kecil, senang untuk dibawa ke mana sahaja."



- Suri rumah, Ros Haizan Ismail, 45.

“

Saya pernah beli novel dan al-Quran terbitan Karangkrak, sampai sekarang masih elok walaupun dibeli pada tujuh tahun lepas. Disebabkan itulah saya tidak lepaskan peluang untuk datang ke Jualan Gudang Karangkrak 2024."



- Suri rumah, Mariam Azman, 31.

“

Saya minat membaca buku bergenre kewangan dan memang akan beli di Karangkrak kerana harganya murah."



- Pelajar, Muhammad Nur Iman Arif Nurul Fhaizal, 20.

pertama program saringan kesihatan diadakan, walaupun begitu masih ramai yang hadir untuk memeriksa kesihatan secara percuma," katanya.

Jualan Gudang Karangkrak 2024 berlangsung di Kompleks Kumpulan Karangkrak pada 27 September hingga 6 Oktober ini, bermula jam 9 pagi hingga 7 malam.



Sebahagian pengunjung sedang membuat saringan kesihatan secara percuma pada Jumaat.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

ADDED TO LIST

LAUNDROMATS NOW SMOKE-FREE ZONE

Despite laws prohibiting smoking in public places, lack of enforcement still a major concern

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AFTER a long fight, laundromats, a popular spot for mothers and children, will finally be included in Malaysia's non-smoking zones.

However, an anti-tobacco advocate group said despite many laws prohibiting people from lighting up in public places, weak enforcement remains an obstacle.

Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP) education officer N.V. Subbarow said despite numerous no-smoking signs many people continue to disregard them, similar to how they ignore traffic road signs.

He cited Little India in George Town, Penang, as an example where the no-smoking signage is often ignored.

"This is an issue that has been going on for years. Although people know that it is a non-smoking zone, they continue to do so."

"The main problem lies in the lack of consistent enforcement," he told the *New Straits Times*.

He said strict enforcement was needed to ensure the regulations under the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 (Act 852) are upheld.

Subbarow suggested that a more rigorous enforcement ap-

proach, similar to Singapore's, could deter people from smoking in non-smoking areas.

"The government should also team up with other relevant agencies for enforcement, so that people would be genuinely be afraid to smoke in non-smoking areas, and for shopkeepers to stop selling cigarettes to minors."

Subbarow also urged the government to extend non-smoking zones in hospitals to include parking lots, as secondhand smoke can still be inhaled.

"The government should ensure the non-smoking zones in hospitals extends at least a mile."

He also called for shopkeepers to comply with the laws, including a requirement to not display smoking products on counters, which is set to be enforced on April 1.

He said this move would help prevent children from smoking.

Subbarow said this should be done quickly and shopkeepers should not be granted any extension on the six-month grace period.

"If the Health Ministry approves more grace periods, it means more deaths from smoking-related diseases."

"Enough is enough. No more grace periods for shopkeepers."

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the smoking ban at laundromats and workplace buildings, including both government and private premises, will take effect on Jan 1, following the enforcement of the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024, which began on Oct 1.

"I am grateful that laundromats, a public space frequented by people, especially mothers and wives who bring their chil-



Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (centre) displaying the new no-smoking logo after holding a media briefing on Act 852 at the Health Ministry, in Putrajaya, yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

dren, have been designated as non-smoking areas.

"Starting from Jan 1, laundromats, as well as government and private workplace buildings, will be enforced as non-smoking zones," he said.

Since his first appointment as health minister in 2018, Dr Dzulkefly has been actively campaigning to include laundromats in the non-smoking list.

The Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 outlines 28 areas designated as non-smoking zones.

Here are the areas where enforcement will begin immediately: entertainment centres or the-

atres, except casinos; hospital or clinic areas; lifts or public toilets; eateries; air-conditioned shops; public transport station buildings; airport areas, except for designated or approved smoking rooms; and government premises, including the Parliament building.

Other areas include any space used for gatherings, whether in public places or inside buildings, except residential or private buildings; educational institutions or higher education institutions; childcare centres; public service counters; shopping complexes; petrol stations; stadium buildings, fitness centres, or

gyms; sports complexes; public buildings or places used for religious purposes; libraries; Internet cafés; and national service training areas.

Rest and relaxation service areas, except for open public parking spaces; public parks, except for open public parking spaces; observation towers, camping sites, canopy walkways, and within five metres of the entrance or exit of canopy walkways in national or state parks; inside school buses; and inside public vehicles are also included.

Only laundromats and workplace buildings will have enforcement starting on Jan 1.

Ministry aims to reduce smoking rate to 15pc by end of 2025

PUTRAJAYA: The Health Ministry is committed to reducing smoking prevalence in Malaysia to 15 per cent by the end of next year, in line with the enforcement of the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the ministry's target was based on a baseline set in 2011.

According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) Malaysia 2023, 4.8 million, or 19 per cent, of Malaysians aged 15 years and older are smokers.

"The baseline for 2025 was to

reduce the prevalence to 15 per cent or lower. At that time, smoking was a significant concern."

"Currently, the smoking rate is 19 per cent, falling short by 4 per cent. We acknowledge and take cognisance of the fact that we failed to achieve the target of 15 per cent that was set in 2011."

"If we can reduce the rate by four per cent in 2025, we will meet that target," he told reporters after a media briefing on the enforcement of the Act.

He added that the Health Ministry's team and its enforcement officers will play a crucial role in

realising this goal.

While smoking prevalence has declined in recent years, Dzulkefly said there is a marked shift from traditional cigarettes to vaping. Vaping prevalence has increased from 4.9 per cent in 2019 to 5.8 per cent last year.

Regarding vaping, Dr Dzulkefly said no target had been set, as they currently only have a baseline figure of 5.8 per cent of the population. He said the ministry will announce its target for vaping in due course.

On other targets or key performance indicators (KPIs) related

to the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024, Dzulkefly said the ministry would first assess the impact of enforcement activities before setting any new goals, which will be announced soon.

The Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 took effect on Oct 1.

One of the immediate provisions is a ban on the sale of smoking products in the form of toys that appeal to children and teenagers.

"Educational enforcement" will be implemented gradually over

six to 12 months. This includes the registration of smoking products from April 1 next year, packaging and labelling regulations by product, and sales control at counters by Oct 1 next year.

Since Oct 1, the Health Ministry has issued 2,548 notices to 2,930 premises as part of educational enforcement efforts.

The notices serve as reminders to the premises that they have six months to comply with the new regulations.

The ministry also issued three fines to individuals caught smoking in prohibited areas.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NATION

Less tobacco smoking, but vaping on the rise

Nation struggling to hit target of reducing smoking to 15%

By TEH ATHIRA YUSOF
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PUTRAJAYA: There has been a drop in the prevalence of conventional smoking among adults in the country, but cigarette usage has seen a rise, says the Health Ministry.

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said progress has been made in reducing conventional smoking, which dropped from 21.3% to 19%.

However, the transition from smoking to vaping saw an increase from 3.2% in 2016 to 4.9% in 2019.

"Now it is at 5.8%," he said here yesterday.

"In 2011, we had a baseline target of reducing the national smoking prevalence to 15%, but we are still struggling to achieve it as we approach 2025."

"Now, we have four percentage points left to achieve the target baseline. I hope we can hit 15% by December 2025," he told reporters during a media briefing at his ministry on the enforcement of the Control of Smoking Products

"In 2011, we had a baseline target of reducing the national smoking prevalence to 15%, but we are still struggling to achieve it as we approach 2025."

Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad

for Public Health Act 2024 (Act 852), which came into force on Oct 1.

Dzulkefly is confident that the 15% target can be achieved by next year following the enforcement of the Act on Tuesday.

The Act covers regulations on the registration, sale, packaging, labelling and prohibition of smok-



All out to curb smoking: Dzulkefly (second from right) showing the new 'No Smoking' signs. — LOW BOON TAT/The Star

ing in public places.

Previously, the 2023 Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) Malaysia reported that it is unlikely for the country to reach its 15% target as it took 12 years to reduce the rate of tobacco smokers by four percentage points from 2011 to 2023.

Dzulkefly said enforcement of Act 852 could help reduce the tobacco smoking habit among adults.

According to the 2023 National Health Morbidity Survey (NHMS 2023), the current national prevalence of tobacco smoking among those aged 15 and above stood at 19%, he added.

On vaping, Dzulkefly said his ministry will determine its prevalence in the future to better tackle the habit.

"Right now, the national prevalence of vaping is at 5.8%, so we will only be able to determine

our targets once we have the figures tallied," he said to a question on the milestone that the ministry is targeting based on enforcement of Act 852.

Dzulkefly said two new places are listed as non-smoking areas – laundrettes and workplace buildings – effective Jan 1 next year.

He added there are 28 non-smoking areas under Act 852 compared with 23 under the Control of Tobacco Product (Amendment) Regulations 2018 under the Food Act 1983.

During his first tenure as health minister in 2018, Dzulkefly had campaigned for a smoking ban in public spaces, which included laundrettes.

The non-smoking regulations were then enforced but laundrettes were left out of the list in 2019.

"Of course, I feel thankful that

laundrettes, where mothers often bring their children, have finally become non-smoking public spaces.

"Continuous enforcement action on both these locations will commence after Jan 1, 2025," he added.

Among the 26 other premises or areas where public smoking is banned are Internet cafés, National Service training centres, observation towers, campsites, canopy walkways and within 5m of the entrance or exit of canopy walkways in national and state parks.

Others are inside school buses and public transport vehicles.

WATCH THE VIDEO
TheStarTV.com



'Tough measures needed to lower tobacco use by 2025'

PETALING JAYA: It will be a major challenge for the authorities to reduce tobacco use among adults in the country by December 2025 as the number of smokers is still high, say health experts.

They said the generational endgame (GEG) element of the anti-smoking laws should be brought back to ensure Malaysia reaches its target to reduce tobacco smoking among adults.

Currently, the percentage of prevalence of tobacco smokers stands at 19%, according to the National Health Morbidity Survey 2023.

If the deadline is set for next year, public health expert Datuk Dr Zainal Arifin Omar proposed that the government re-introduce and implement strict anti-smoking provisions such as GEG.

Dr Zainal, who was part of the task force in 2011 that set the target of 15%, said this would ensure that the number of smokers will go down.

"Perhaps it would take more than a year to hit the target, even though there is only 4% to go.

"We need more effective laws to curb conventional smoking.

"Additionally, the support system and services must be effective in assisting people as it requires time and effort to end an addictive habit," he said when contacted yesterday.

In 2023, the GEG element, which sought to ban those born in 2007 and onwards from smoking or purchasing smoking products, was removed from the revised Control of Smoking Products for Public Health 2023 Bill, prompting criticism from health experts.

Following the enforcement of

the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 (Act 852) on Oct 1, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said it would help reduce the national prevalence of tobacco smokers to 15% among adults.

Public health medicine specialist Prof Dr Sharifa Ezaf Wan Puteh said the new law would deter sales of tobacco products to minors.

She also said the focus should be on current smokers as it is harder for them to quit the habit.

"Not only do we need them to stop smoking, but we also need to deter them from shifting to another addictive substance such as drugs or psychoactive ingredients.

"With the new law, tobacco products can be stopped from being sold openly, especially to minors.

"We need to be cautious as

some countries which implemented a similar law saw the emergence of the illicit trade of cheaper alternatives," she added.

National Cancer Society of Malaysia (NCSM) managing director Dr Murallitharan Munisamy said the target is unrealistic considering there are "dual smokers", using both conventional cigarettes and vaping products.

"There is a lot of catching up to do. But having the law now in force, we could set the timeline to 2026 instead.

"The issue now is that smokers would look to vaping when they quit smoking.

"However, they become dual users of both cigarettes and vape," he said.

Prof Dr Victor Hoe from the Department of Social and

Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya, said a whole-of-society approach was needed to curb the habit.

Organisations should be given the authority to enforce no smoking bans within their premises, he said.

For example, a university auxiliary police could be given the authority to issue compound notices on those who smoke within the institution.

"Right now, there are laws in place to curb smoking in public spaces, but the security personnel in universities and hospitals have the power to issue compounds against their own staff or students and not visitors found smoking there.

"Auxiliary police can be given the power to deal with people who smoke within their designated areas," he added.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : NATION

Rat poo closes Tawau food factories

Three tonnes of foodstuff also confiscated prior to closures

By DURIE RAINER FONG
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KOTA KINABALU: Four food processing factories in Tawau have been ordered to shut down for two weeks after rat droppings were found there.

Three tonnes of processed foodstuff were confiscated from the factories during inspections under the Food Safety Assurance Programme by Tawau health personnel on Thursday.

Tawau health officer Dr Shameer Khan Sulaiman said the factories were found to be in an unhygienic state, breaching Section 32B of the Food Act 1983.

"We made the decision for the

factories to close immediately for 14 days because of the rat droppings and poor level of cleanliness at the premises.

"The factories also did not have the Makanan Selamat Tanggungjawab Industri (MeSTI) certification although they have been operating for some time," he said.

He added that the foodstuff was seized as it did not meet with food safety requirements.

"We will monitor the factories to ensure that they do not violate the order.

"They can apply to the Tawau Health Office to be allowed to resume operations, but they must obtain the MeSTI certifica-



Warning sign: Health officers putting up a notice of closure at one of the factories in Tawau.

tion first so that they can follow the necessary health procedures," said Dr Shameer.

He said a total of 16 premises were checked over the three-day

operation, with 15 compounds issued.

The operation was aimed at ensuring food cleanliness and safety and compliance with the

Food Act.

"I appeal to all suppliers and factories to follow the regulations for the safety of all," said Dr Shameer.