

Officers given the nod to enforce smoking ban

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry has authorised 189 enforcement officers such as auxiliary police, local authorities and other agencies under Section 3 of the Food Act 1983 (Act 281) to ensure public compliance with the ban on smoking in prohibited places.

Its deputy minister Lukanisman Amang Sauni said this process will continue under the Smoking Products Control Act for Public Health 2024 (Act 852) besides community empowerment through the involvement of NGOs, professional bodies and others.

“Until now there are 189 enforcement officers and auxiliary police, namely 95 enforcers from Kuala Lumpur City Hall, 77 auxiliary police from Sunway Group and 17 auxiliary police from Universiti Teknologi Mara Sungai Buloh, that have been delegated to ensure public compliance,” he said at a question-and-answer session at Dewan Negara yesterday.

He was replying to Senator Dr Noraini Idris’ supplementary question on enforcement collaboration by the ministry with related parties to curb smoking in public places.

Lukanisman said the creation of a special space outside the restaurant area, which is a place gazetted as a no-smoking area, must obtain the permission of the local authority.

He said the Housing and Local Government Ministry on Jan 20, 2020 issued a circular that if any party wants to set up a smoking area, it must be built according to the conditions set and must obtain the permission from authorities.

“The main purpose is to ensure that only basic facilities such as cigarette ashtrays are provided to prevent smokers from staying in those places for a long time,” he said.

– Bernama



The provision of smoking areas is to ensure compliance while also ensuring cleanliness of public places. – **MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN**