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PDS SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO BAN YOUTH FROM SMOKING

KOTA KINABALU, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- The Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) women movement today expressed support for the government's decision in enforcing a law to ban youths under 18 from smoking or to possess cigarettes by March this year.

The movement's deputy chief, Dr Jaina Sintian said in a statement here that the ban was necessary and timely as, of late, there was a tendency for smokers especially the youths to indulge in drug abuse.

"The PDS Women Movement share the concern of the government regarding the use of ecstasy pills in entertainment establishments. And the concern of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself on this issue is laudable," she said.

Yesterday, the Cabinet approved new regulations preventing use of tobacco by youths under 18 which covers possessing, chewing and smoking tobacco.

Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Ming, in announcing this, said the new regulations which represent amendments to the Tobacco Products Control Regulations 1993 would be submitted to the Attorney-General's Chambers and were expected to be gazetted next month.

Jaina said that social problems involving youths were on the rise and as such the various authorities including religious institutions, NGOs, political parties and parent-teacher associations should pull their resources to address the problem. -- BERNAMA

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