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CONTROL ON SALE OF CONDOMS NOT SUITABLE

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 6 (Bernama) -- The proposed control on the sale of condoms is not suitable in a plural society like Malaysia, said Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng today.

He said in fact the World Health Organisation (WHO) agreed that condoms was the best protection against venereal diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

The proposal should be reviewed, he told reporters after participating in a one-day forum on "HIV/AIDS Situation in Malaysia: Are We Doing Enough?" in conjunction with World AIDS Day 2001 here.

He was commenting on Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Khir Toyo's statement yesterday that the state government had agreed that the sale of condoms should be controlled to curb vices.

Chua said there must be studies made to prove that unrestricted sale of condoms had led to increase in immoral activities as alleged by the Selangor Youth Council which had proposed control on the sale of condoms to the state government.

The Malaysian AIDS Council President Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir meanwhile feared that restricting the sale of condoms could increase the rate of HIV/AIDS infection in the country.

-- BERNAMA

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