

FIX VARSITIES' INTERNET ISSUES, PM TELLS MCMC

Anwar directs MCMC and Higher Education Ministry to work together and address matter

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has directed the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and the Higher Education Ministry to collaborate in addressing Internet connectivity issues at public universities.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil said Anwar wanted the process to be expedited, especially given the upcoming new semester.

"God willing, (Higher Education Minister) Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir and I will address this promptly," Fahmi said during the weekly press conference following the cabinet meeting yesterday.

He said the matter was brought up in yesterday's cabinet meeting following the National Digital Economy and Fourth Industrial Revolution Council meeting last week.

The government, through MCMC and the ministry, has been working to improve the Internet connectivity at public universities at least since a year ago.

In January 2023, Fahmi instructed MCMC to provide a comprehensive report on the issue.

He said the report was important as a basis for him to understand the matter affecting university students.

Later that year, Fahmi said MCMC would hold engagement sessions with all university development departments to assess the Internet infrastructure on their respective campuses.

Later, the then higher education minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said his ministry would prioritise efforts to upgrade networks, including the expansion and improvement of WiFi coverage at all public universities.

On a separate issue, Fahmi said



Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil speaking at his weekly press conference in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

a TikTok account allegedly selling drugs has been taken down.

He confirmed that the account was no longer accessible in Malaysia as of yesterday morning, following TikTok's action.

Fahmi said he had instructed MCMC to widen its investigation to identify other entities involved in similar activities.

"MCMC will reach out to TikTok to determine how such an account was allowed to operate and for how long it has been active."

Fahmi said MCMC had filed a report regarding the issue, leaving it to the authorities to carry out the investigation.

On Tuesday, X users, particularly parents and adults, were alerted about a Thai lollipop called Candy Fun, believed to contain recreational drugs.

Packaged in pink with an image of a cartoonish monster, the dark brown or purplish lollipop has gained traction among children, youths and partygoers.

Some people have expressed their concerns about the sale of these drug-laced lollipops.

One X user, @cazzrah, questioned TikTok management about how such content could be posted on its platform.

"Who oversees TikTok Malaysia? Which sub-company is responsible? All your moderators are so young — don't they know how to check the comments section? Other people's posts get removed for minor mistakes, but something like this gets

through?" he said.

On another issue, Fahmi confirmed the termination of J-Kom director-general Mohd Khairuddin Othman, but no permanent replacement has been appointed yet.

"For now, his duties will be temporarily reassigned, but it's unclear when a permanent replacement will be appointed, as there is a process involved."

He declined to disclose the reason behind the termination, saying that the process followed standard procedures.

On Tuesday, the media reported that Khairuddin had been removed from the position, just six months after his appointment.

Khairuddin, who is Selangor PKR secretary, confirmed to Utusan Malaysia that his contract was terminated but did not explain why.

"It is true. It (contract) has been terminated. I am no longer the director-general," he said, adding questions on the matter should be referred to Fahmi.

Khairuddin was appointed J-Kom director-general on March 1, replacing Datuk Dr Mohammad Agus Yusoff, who resigned last November.

This followed controversy over an alleged video call between Agus and a staff member, which featured a salacious conversation.

Agus and the staff member said that while the video was authentic, the audio had been manipulated by a person they identified as "Mr H".