

PM WANTS ACTION ON DRUG, VAPE ISSUE

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'We've been deliberating this issue for decades, yet it remains unresolved'

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for urgent and concerted action to tackle the growing problem of drug and vape abuse among youths.

Addressing the Malaysia Madani Nationalism Seminar titled "Teachers as Catalysts of National Patriotism", he said the issue was raised during a cabinet meeting yesterday.

"Please, hold discussions, find effective strategies and approaches. Do you need funding? Counselling? Religious outreach? Let me know.

"We've been deliberating this issue for decades, yet it remains unresolved."

He acknowledged the enormity of the task ahead, but stressed the importance of beginning the process of reform.

"I'm aware that poverty has yet to be fully addressed. I've not succeeded in significantly improving



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim addressing the Malaysia Madani Nationalism Seminar, titled 'Teachers as Catalysts of National Patriotism', in Putrajaya yesterday.

NSTP PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

the quality of education.

"I've not yet managed to elevate the Malay language as a respected language of knowledge.

"I've also not succeeded in strengthening Islamic outreach and awareness among students. But we must start."

At his weekly post-cabinet meeting media briefing yesterday, government spokesman Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the government would take firm action against the online sale of illicit products, in-

cluding drug-laced vape liquids.

The communications minister said a meeting between his ministry, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad and Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali would be held soon to discuss enforcement mechanisms.

"The meeting will focus on the implementation of enforcement measures against the sale of prohibited products, including vape liquids believed to contain illegal

drugs, which are being sold on mobile applications, social media platforms and other online channels."

Fahmi said the outcome of the meeting would be presented to the cabinet for further deliberation, including possible action against sellers and platforms that enabled such sales.

He said the effort reflected the government's concern over the growing social threat posed by the issue.

Earlier this month, Selangor police chief Datuk Hussein Omar Khan said vape liquids could be easily spiked with illicit substances.

He said 24 cases of drug-laced vape liquids were recorded in Selangor last year and 17 were reported this year up to the end of last month.

He said the sale of such products was growing on social media and controlling the menace was difficult.