

Health Ministry Collects RM73,000 From Smokers At R&R
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TEMERLOH, March 5 (Bernama) -- A total of RM73,000 in compound fines was collected from 292 offenders caught smoking at 112 Rest & Recreation Areas (R&R) nationwide on Feb 24 and 25.

Health Deputy Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya said the operation was a follow-up to the gazetting of R&R as no-smoking areas, about three months ago.

"Smokers were compounded a minimum fine of RM250 each while 16 warnings were issued to owners of premises who failed to exhibit the no-smoking sign.

"The awareness campaign will be continued via the approach, 'The Duty of Premises Owners' who will be taught to warn the public against smoking at R&R," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after launching a national-level R&R as no-smoking areas campaign and the launching of a state-level cigarette-free generation at the Westward Temerloh R&R here Thursday.

Also present was state health director, Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar.

Hilmi said a ministerial-level discussion was being held to get the views of numerous parties over tightening laws on smokers and the sale of cigarettes.

Commenting on protests at a proposal to separate the functions of clinics from pharmacies (dispensary separation), Hilmi said views on the matter would be considered before the proposal was implemented.

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