

Smoking bans at campuses will help instill smoke-free culture

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KOTA KINABALU: The proposal to extend the ban on smoking at campuses of tertiary institutions would help cultivate a non-smoking culture, say academicians.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Deputy Dean of Student Affairs and Postgraduate Studies Dr Arif @ Kamisan Pusiran said the ban would indirectly create a more conducive campus atmosphere for students.

"Besides that, it can also help save on treatment costs for illnesses caused by smoking," he said when contacted by Bernama here on Thursday.

Kota Kinabalu Polytechnic director Zainab Othman welcomed the proposal, adding that her institution had long designated its premises as a non-smoking zone.

"As a place to pursue knowledge, the environment (of a tertiary institute) must be clean and healthy," she said.

On Tuesday, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the ministry was considering the possibility of extending the non-smoking zones to higher education institutions such as private and public schools as well as universities, this year.

From Jan 1 this year, the ban was imposed on premises selling food under the Control of Tobacco Product (Amendment) Regulations 2018.

For the first six months, enforcement officers will only issue warning letters, however, from July 1, anyone found guilty can be fined up to RM10,000, or jailed for up to two years. -Bernama