



**MEDIA STATEMENT
THE OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)**

EDITOR, NEWS DESK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (12 JULY 2023) – In response to the recent suit filed against the Ministry of Health, this office would like to reiterate our stance which is also reflective on our earlier statement regarding the delisting of nicotine from the Poison Act 1952 [Act 366].

The consequential effect of the delisting is not unthinkably distant nor remote. Children and Young people will have unhindered access to the consumption of nicotine which could see an explosive number of youth addictions to nicotine-related products in no time. The situation will only worsen when they are also likely to be exposed to illicit substance or super-strength nicotine when consuming the products.

The perilous policy move that monetised the health and well-being of children and young people to trade on the increment of tax revenue was ineptly devised. Child-rights approach in policy-formulation is under-emphasised and should be stressed in the context of substance control. The scientific understanding of harm associated by nicotine has to be rigorously studied and disseminated accessibly to the wider public particularly children.

‘As the mouthpiece for the children on matters affecting them, I would like to urge that the government has the obligation to get it right, which is relisting nicotine back to the scheduled list of Act 366. When it comes to the protection of their health, the children in Malaysia deserve no less.’

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**Dr Farah Nini Dusuki
Children's Commissioner
12 July 2023**