

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

## 18,267 Malaysians died of heart disease last year

**IPOH:** Coronary heart disease is Malaysia's number one killer, with 50 people dying from the health condition daily, said Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye.

Citing the Department of Statistics' figures, Dr Lee said that 18,267 Malaysians died of coronary heart disease last year.

"Deaths from the disease increase every year, and it is the leading cause of 'sudden death' (in Malaysia)," he told reporters after launching the 'Perak Automated External Defibrillator: Save-A-Life' programme at Ipoh City Hall on Sunday.

**Bernama**



*Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye*

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 15

RUANGAN : NEWS IN BRIEF

## Bill will allow ministry to grow ketum for research, medication

**WHILE** the planting of ketum plants are permitted for research, education and medication purposes, it is still subject to terms and conditions, as well as a letter of approval from the health minister.

This was the gist of the Poisons (Revised) Supply Bill (RUU) 2019 tabled for its first reading by Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Based on the bill, Dr Dzulkefly has the authority to allow any civil servant or officer of statutory bodies to grow the plant.

This means that the public are no longer allowed to plant the psychoactive plants.

Failure to abide by the law will see offenders fined a maximum of RM200,000 or face seven

years' jail or both, once the bill is passed.

The amendment seeks to establish control over psychoactive plants, including its cultivation, import, export, mixture, sale, supply, ownership and use.

The amendment seeks to expand the scope of the Poisons Act 1952 (Act 366) that covers control of psychoactive plants, tightening control over poisons and psychoactive materials, as well as to streamline Act 366 with current needs.

The Health director-general and pharmaceutical enforcement officers are given the authority to issue compounds for offences related to poisons and psychoactive plants.

Licensing officers, Poisons Board members or anyone acting



*Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad*

upon orders while on duty are covered by Section 34A of the same act.

The ministry is given the power to set the procedures for the issuance of compounds. The amount of the compound should not be more than 50 per cent of the maximum fine for the offence.