

NEWS

### 'GHOST SMOKE' CANDY NO LONGER SOLD

KUALA LUMPUR: Continuous nationwide crackdown on the sale of "Ghost Smoke" candy has succeeded in eradicating its availability to schoolchildren. "We have taken steps to safeguard our children from consuming the candy, namely operations to stop traders or vendors from selling it and cooperation from the Health Ministry in sharing information," Deputy Domestic Trade and Consumerism Minister Chong Chieng Jen told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. Chong was responding to Datuk Che Abdullah Mat Nawi (PAS-Tumpat), who asked the minister on preventive measures taken to curb the sale of the item, especially to primary school students. Chong added that checks by the ministry did not reveal any forbidden ingredients in the product, but it simulates smoking and was thus inappropriate for schoolchildren. He said while the candy had been analysed by the Health Ministry and its ingredients were permitted for consumption, it was appalling that the cigarette-like item was being sold to schoolchildren. The product is consumed by sucking on a straw that resembles a cigarette to produce a smoke-like effect.