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M'sia lauds Indonesian digital ban for under-16s

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is supportive of Indonesia's efforts to ban access to high-risk digital platforms for children under the age of 16 starting March 28.

Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the move aligns with ongoing discussions between the two countries to ensure a safer internet.

"I truly welcome the efforts by Meutya Hafid, my counterpart in Indonesia. We have long discussed how we must work together to ensure the internet is safer for our respective citizens, especially among children.

"I feel this is a timely and positive step by the Indonesian government, and certainly on Malaysia's part, we are ready to share experiences, techniques and regulatory aspects that could potentially benefit Indonesia," he told reporters on Friday after attending an *iftar* and Aidilfitri contribution event with Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB).

Earlier, reports from Jakarta stated that Meutya announced starting from the implementation date, social media accounts belonging to children under 16 on high-risk platforms, including YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X, Bigo Live and Roblox, would begin to be deactivated.

Fahmi also said cooperation regarding digital safety in the region has been strengthened since last year through a consensus among Asean member states.

He added that during the 47th Asean Summit held last October, communications ministers adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration to create a safer social media domain.

"Communications ministers across Southeast Asia have agreed that we need to look at how each Asean country views, evaluates and implements measures to guarantee user safety."

However, he said not all Southeast Asian countries share the same intent in implementing such measures, but described the development as a good start toward strengthening user safety in the digital space.

Regarding the event, Fahmi said TNB presented a RM10,000 contribution to the Madrasah Tarbiah Islamiah at Putra Ria Apartment, as well as RM150 in Hari Raya Aidilfitri preparations assistance to 100 recipients.

Fahmi, who is also Lembah Pantai MP, said his office is providing ambulance services at a rate of RM1 for local residents through a partnership with an NGO.

"I am collaborating with an NGO to provide 10 ambulances specifically for Lembah Pantai residents at a price of only RM1.

"This NGO is managed by the Pertubuhan Amal Uncle Kentang Malaysia and bookings can be made through *surau* committees, mosque committees or residential representative councils." - Bernama