

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : FRONT PAGE

RUANGAN : NEWS

ONLINE HUNT FOR BEAUTY 'TRAPS'

HEALTH authorities are taking their hunt for sellers of illegal beauty products to social media. Those hiding behind pseudonyms will be exposed with the help of banks and telecommunications companies.

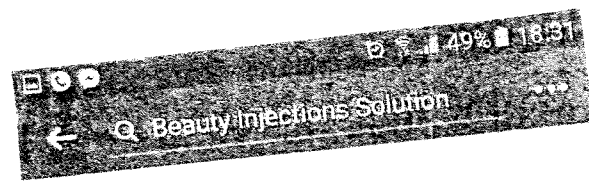
» REPORTS BY ALIZA SHAH ON PAGES 2 & 3

Beauty products which are marketed in Malaysia without notification to and approval from the Health Ministry.



TERPAKSA PU.TIH HUJUNG BULANN NI "

... kak nur km sebelum ni tak percaya cakap kak suggest ida utk ambik collagen ni , tapi dah kat nak naik pelamin hujung bu.lan ni TERPAKSA La Ambik Sbb nak cantik dan PU.TIH time majlis kan , Maklum lah kan sekali je seumur hidup ni ... Tapi kan akak .



HOME

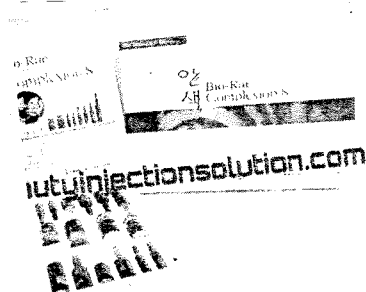
Beauty Injections Solution added 4 new photos



HOME

Ocean Beauty Zone added 13 new photos

... NG SEPANTAS 1 box " XION 8 ni adalah korean produk . itu ramai wanita2 yang nak gojes



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KILLER COSMETICS

WIDENING NET TO NAB ONLINE SELLERS

Thousands under the microscope of ministry's new Cyberforensic Division

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HEALTH authorities, now on an aggressive nationwide crackdown to rid the beauty industry of unnotified and toxic beauty products, have widened their net to nab those selling such products on social media.

Thousands of sellers hiding behind the World Wide Web when peddling their products, including clearly outlawed injectable beauty concoctions, have come under the microscope of the Health Ministry's newly established Cyberforensic Division.

Health enforcers, who have been storming kiosks and beauty parlours selling illegal and dubious products, have a list of errant online businessmen, who, based on their testimonials and claims, have sold thousands of units each to consumers who have no idea that some of the products contain the deadly hydroquinone, among others.

Their modus operandi is similar, and tailored to escape the law: they do not allow pick-ups and their operating addresses are not made public.

And, any negative testimonial posted on their sites is swiftly deleted.

A source from the ministry said the enforcement team of the Pharmaceutical Services Division, with the help of the Cyberforensic Division, had been compiling information and evidence against these profit-driven online retailers, who are putting public health at serious risk.

"The cyberforensic team will come out with profiles of those using social media to sell illegal cosmetics, including the injectable kind.

"They will also zero in on these sellers' contact details and bank accounts.

"Banks and telcos will assist the team in securing these crucial details," said the source, adding that their addresses would be given to enforcers to carry out raids.

The authorities, said the source, would seek help from the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission to block sites that promote or sell unnotified products.

Enforcers from the Pharmaceutical Services Division have, over the past week, gone on an onslaught against

Aqua Skin Veniscy : High Strength Whitening

RM260.00



For Skin Whitening and Anti-Aging Therapy. This is your solution to any skin enhancement needs, ranging from

those manufacturing illicit cosmetics and selling them at kiosks, night markets, bazaars and beauty parlours.

Their findings confirm the fear of many who suspect that while these sellers claim that their products are home-made and do not contain hazardous substances, many have actually been importing in bulk cosmetics substances from unknown sources in China, Thailand and South Korea.

The raiding party also found, on the premises raided, barrels of suspect creams and chemicals, many of which had just arrived from China.

The large-scale raids have led to the discovery that many of these sellers and manufacturers have been conning their customers into believing that they are the original manufacturers of the cosmetics they sell, when that is not the case.

Some have gone to the extent of using photographs of "chemists" hunched over samples in laboratories, concocting their own beauty formulas, in their marketing campaigns.

The *New Straits Times* was told that throughout this year's aggressive enforcement against these illicit traders, the focus would be on those selling unnotified cosmetics out of business premises and kiosks.

"The crackdown has begun in several states, including Selangor, Penang, Terengganu and Johor," said the source.

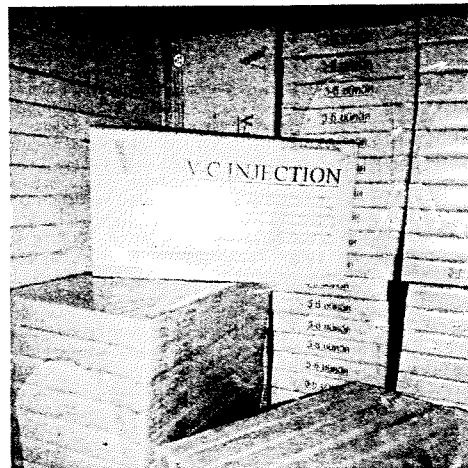
A massive crackdown to clear the market of killer beauty products has been carried out in the city centre over the past few days.

The director of the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya Health Department, Dr Zainudin Ab-



Nani Nature Pemborong Kosmetik
 Thailand & Malaysia

Morning guys...ni nak bgtau...stok vc injection sampai pulak dah...kali ni saja ambik berkotak kotak...laku sungguh...yg dah buat payment akan dipos hari isnin ye...sabtu & ahad kami cuti pos. sapa maw boleh whatsapp
 0189433788



Among the suspect beauty products sold via social media.

dul Wahab, said the operations, involving 22 officers, followed the promise that it would do everything within its power to protect the public from being exposed to harmful cosmetics sold by unscrupulous, profit-driven businesses.

The department has been receiving a steady stream of complaints from consumers adversely affected by the tainted cosmetics.

The operations were preceded by over a month's surveillance and intelligence gathering by the enforcement team.

In the first phase of enforcement, the enforcers raided 10 premises and seized RM2 million worth of illicit products.

"Among complaints we received were on premises in Jalan Klang Lama that were selling illegal cosmetics.

"We raided an office and nine stores in a shopping complex... Many of these sellers push their products online, either in retail or bulk.

"Our team went undercover as interested buyers... They (the sellers) lure unsuspecting consumers by convincing them of their products' effectiveness and claim that the products are cheaper than those in the market," Dr Zainudin told the NST.

The raids were a continuation of operations by the ministry involving clinics and beauty parlours, including those selling unnotified products and providing illegal injection services.

The items seized included buckets and barrels of night cream, unapproved whitening injection products and sex stimulants.

The cases will be investigated un-

der Regulation 7(1)(a) of the Control of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulations 1984 Act for possessing unregistered products and Regulation 18(a)(1) of the same act for possessing unnotified cosmetic products.

Individuals found guilty of both charges could be sentenced under Section 12(1) of the Sales of Drug Act 1952, which provides a fine of not exceeding RM25,000 or imprisonment not exceeding three years.

For companies, the punishment falls under Section 12(2) of the same act, involving a fine of not exceeding RM50,000.

This newspaper had, last month, front-paged a series of investigative reports on the rampant sale of harmful cosmetics, including those sourced from China, Thailand and the Philippines.

These products, which the NST picked up from night markets, markets, bazaars and social media platforms, and sent for lab analyses, were found to contain dangerous substances, including hydroquinone and mercury.

The team then approached the ministry's enforcement agencies to rein in not only the sellers, but also doctors who helped administer injectable whitening products not approved by the ministry.

The first raids saw doctors caught red-handed while administering suspect injectable whitening concoctions into their "patients".

The enforcers also extended their raids to include beauty parlours selling unnotified products and providing beauty injection services.



Barrels of night cream seized in raids by enforcement officers.

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak presenting a mock cheque for a special allocation for Tamil vernacular schools to Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan (fifth from right) at the 60th Diamond Jubilee Kelab Bell Bella Tamil Malaysia in Port Dickson yesterday. With them is Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam (fourth from right). PIC BY IQMAL HAQIM ROSMAN

60 YEARS OF PEACE, STABILITY

Nation is successful because we set aside our differences, says Najib

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MALAYSIA has come a long way in 60 years due to the peace, stability and prosperity enjoyed by the people.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the survival of a country could not be maintained if the people did not set their differences aside.

"Our country is complex due to our diversity and differences in race, religion and belief. But, we are here today because we have managed to set aside our differences."

He said the ability of the country to succeed was once doubted due to its diversity, which was expected to lead to disputes.

"Sri Lanka has only two communities, but they were involved in a long civil war. Our country was more complex when it was first formed. But, we put aside our differences and reached this stage."

"We tolerate, accept and celebrate our differences. With these, I believe Malaysia can step forward and become among the top 20 countries in the world in 30 years," he said at the launch of Wisma Ceylonese here yesterday.

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, state MIC chairman Datuk Manickam Letchuman, Malaysian Associated Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry president Tan Sri Dr K. Kenneth Eswaran and



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the launch of Wisma Ceylonese in Seremban yesterday. PIC BY HAZREEN MOHAMAD

Negeri Sembilan Ceylonese Association chairman Datuk Kumarasamy Sittamplam.

Najib said it was his responsibility to listen to the wishes of the people in the implementation of a new vision for the nation.

"The new vision must have the sense of belonging and the sense of common ground which say that we belong to the same community."

"Community and nation building is important. I must listen to the wishes of the people and translate them into actions and policies that can bring the country to greater heights."

Earlier, in **Lukut**, Najib said Malaysians should be grateful as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) here was six per cent compared with India's 23 per cent.

He said the RM41 billion collected from GST would be used to boost education and healthcare, and help state governments.

"My good friend Mr Modi (Indian Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi) will implement a three-level GST, with the highest level at 23 per cent. So, we should not complain," Najib said at the 60th Diamond Jubilee Kelab Bell Bella Tamil Malaysia.

"If GST is abolished, the RM41 billion collected will not go to the government. How can we implement all government projects if there is no source of money?" he asked.

Najib also commended the Kelab Bell Bella Tamil Malaysia, the oldest association in Malaysia, for being instrumental in helping the Indian community since 1956.

"The Indian community represents 7.4 per cent of the country's population and the Indians have made immense contributions to the country."

"The government, on its part, will continue to help as we have set up two units at the Prime Minister's Department aimed at solely helping the Indian community."