

Create awareness of firecracker hazard — professor

KUALA LUMPUR: A special campaign using the hashtag #Raya without firecrackers must be initiated to enhance awareness of the dangers of firecrackers and fireworks, especially during festive seasons.

Professor Datin Dr Norizan Abdul Razak from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, said through such a campaign, the number of incidents involving firecrackers can be reduced significantly.

"The local media comprising social media, print and electronic media need to play an important role in creating awareness by highlighting the dangers involved while playing with firecrackers. They can publish or broadcast stories of victims who have suffered serious injuries while playing with firecrackers or fireworks," she told *Bernama*.

Dr Norizan said playing with firecrackers is not and should not be a culture in Islam because such time can be used for other activities to keep children occupied, like carrying out religious programmes.

Crime analyst Datuk Akhbar Satar said enforcement at all entry points into the country must be tightened to prevent firecrackers and fireworks from being smuggled into the country, especially during festive seasons.

"Such enforcement must be carried out in a transparent manner while the integrity of enforcement officers on duty must be monitored to ensure that there are no flaws in the system," he said.

Akhbar said though many campaigns and operations are being carried out, the number of injuries involving firecrackers, especially among children, remains a major concern because such incidents are rampant during festive seasons. — *Bernama*