

VAPE BAN IS NOT THE SOLUTION

Kuala Lumpur, 3 June 2025 – Malaysian Vapers Alliance today said that policymakers in state governments should not ban sale of vape products and instead work together with the federal government to ensure vape products are regulated in Malaysia.

Khairil Azizi Khairuddin, president, Malaysian Vapers Alliance said, “Banning the sale of vape products by stopping the issuance of business licence for local traders will only create negative consequences especially when the federal government has already enacted laws to regulate vape products.”

“Consumers want access to regulated products. But this situation will cause negative consequences where consumers will be forced to seek products from alternative source including illegal channels. This will then create a situation where illegal vape products and underground market will flourish”

MVA added that the proposal to ban sale of vape products by stopping the issuance of municipal council business licences does not solve the issue at hand which is the misuse and abuse of banned substance. MVA further added that access to products laced and infused with drugs are not sold in vape shops but instead are sold via online platforms including social media channels and applications such as Telegram.

“There is a clear example that state-wide vape bans do not work. Last year YB Home Minister in a Parliament session cited a study by Universiti Sains Malaysia Hospital which found that 65% underage vape users in Kelantan were found vaping mixed with a substance known as magic mushrooms although the has stopped licence issuance for vape shops and vape trading since 2015.”

“Clearly the ban on vape shops is not the right solution. Instead, the authorities need to work towards ensuring only regulated vape products are available for sale in vape shops, increase enforcement efforts against the sale of products laced and infused with drugs on those channels and impose heavy penalties including mandatory jail term for those involved,” said **Khairil**.

MVA also said that the use of vape products should not be confused with drug use as data has shown that countries embracing harm reduction, like Sweden, the UK, and New Zealand, are seeing record drops in smoking rates when regulated vape products are made available, while nations with restrictive policies continue to lag behind.

Research from leading health authorities confirms vaping is significantly less harmful than smoking and more effective than traditional nicotine replacement therapies. Meanwhile, bans risk pushing people back to cigarettes.”

“As the evidence mounts, it is impossible to ignore the transformation that harm reduction has brought to public health. In Sweden, the widespread use of less harmful nicotine products has nearly eliminated smoking, and New Zealand is on the path to a smoke-free future. The data is clear: when adults have access to regulated vaping products, smoking rates fall faster, more

lives are saved, and health inequalities are reduced. Yet, too often, these success stories are left out of the any conversation.”

“Coinciding with the recent World Vape Day on 30 May 2025, we urge policymakers to put facts before fear, to listen to the real experiences of people who have quit and address the issue with the real solution instead of stopping licence issuance to traders for sale of vape products,” concluded **Khairil**.