

## NEWS RELEASE

# MVA CALLS FOR MOH TO INTRODUCE REGULATIONS THAT DIFFERENTIATE VAPE FROM CIGARETTES

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 MAY 2022 – In conjunction with World Vape Day today, **Malaysian Vaper Alliance (MVA)** calls for the Ministry of Health to introduce regulations that differentiates the regulatory treatment on vape from cigarettes given its potential as a harm reduction and smoking cessation tool.

**MVA President, Khairil Azizi Khairuddin** said, “Ministry of Health must differentiate the laws for vape from cigarettes and cannot be having regulations to regulate both the products in the same way. These two products are not the same.”

“There are evidences from international public health bodies showing vaping to be less harmful than cigarettes. Ministry of Health needs to acknowledge the fact that while vape is not risk free, it is significantly less harmful than cigarettes. Many smokers have also chosen to switch to vaping to stop smoking and it works.”

“I was a smoker myself and I quit permanently with the help of vape. I managed to reduce all the risks I may have related to cigarette smoking and I hope that all smokers can have the same experience as me,” Khairil said.

Khairil also said the upcoming laws that will be tabled in Parliament by the Ministry of Health to regulate vape needs include safety and quality standards requirement to protect consumers.

“At the moment, consumers are exposed to the risk of using unregulated products. Safety and quality standards requirements must be included in the law to ensure consumers are protected. Products in market need to undergo checks and the ingredients must also be verified to comply with laws before it can be offered for sale,” added Khairil.

This year, MVA is participating for the first time in the World Vape Day 2022 organised by **World Vaper Alliance (WVA)**. World Vape Day is an annual event that brings the vaping community worldwide to celebrate harm reduction together.

The aim is to raise awareness about the relative safety of vape products and their potential as harm reduction and smoking cessation tools. This is especially important now as more and more people are getting the wrong message about vaping and tobacco harm reduction.

The World Vape Day’s event features a forum with international harm reduction experts Dr. Colin Mendelsohn, Founding Chair of the Australian Tobacco Harm Reduction Association; Prof. Bernhard Mayer, professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Graz,

and Carmine Canino, President of ANPVU, an Italian vaping consumer association. Malaysians keen to follow the discussions can visit <https://worldvapersalliance.com/eu/world-vape-day/>

Khairil added, “After a year in operations, MVA is aiming to expand its network and find more like-minded members on board to advocate for vape to be one of the methods for tobacco harm reduction with appropriate regulations.”

“MVA believes that vape has a huge role to play to encourage cigarette smokers to quit smoking by switching to vape that is proven to be less harmful and different from traditional cigarettes,” Khairil concluded.

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***About the Malaysian Vapers Alliance***

*The Malaysian Vapers Alliance (MVA) is a nonprofit advocacy group that champions the use of vape products to help smokers quit. MVA’s work is dedicated to empowering consumers and representing their interests in various legislative, policy making, and rule-making arenas.*