

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Skim Perkhidmatan Pesakit Bayar Penuh

KKM digesa pantau skim FPP elak disalah guna

Kuala Lumpur: Hartal Doktor Kontrak (HDK) menggesa Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) untuk mengambil langkah perlindungan bagi mengelakkan penyalahgunaan Skim Perkhidmatan Pesakit Bayar Penuh (FPP) di hospital kerajaan, seterusnya memberi kesan negatif pada kualiti perkhidmatan dan penjagaan kesihatan awam.

Dalam kenyataannya, HDK berkata, KKM perlu memastikan ketika skim itu dilaksanakan, ia tidak meminggirkan golongan yang memerlukan.

Katanya, hospital kerajaan yang melaksanakan FPP perlu mengutamakan penjagaan kesihatan supaya ia mampu dan mu-

dah diakses semua, terutama komuniti yang kurang mendapat perhatian.

"Terdapat risiko mungkin se-setengah golongan profesional kesihatan akan mengutamakan khidmat FPP berbanding tanggungjawab awam, sekali gus mengakibatkan masa menunggu lebih lama dan pengurangan kualiti penjagaan untuk pesakit awam.

"Kami mencadangkan supaya ada peraturan ketat dan peman-tauan rapi dalam memastikan doktor pakar mengekalkan komitmen mereka terhadap penjagaan kesihatan awam. Mereka yang melanggar peraturan ini harus dikenakan hukuman, terma-

suk larangan daripada penyer-taan dalam perkhidmatan FPP," katanya semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, HDK turut meminta supaya KKM melindungi doktor pelatih, jururawat dan pekerja penjagaan kesihatan lain yang mungkin berdepan eksploitasi akibat tekanan dikaitkan dengan perkhidmatan FPP.

"Untuk mengelakkan kerja berlebihan dan memastikan pengagihan kerja yang adil, kami menyokong pemberian ganjaran dan pengiktirafan kepada mereka yang tidak layak secara langsung untuk pendapatan FPP, tindakan ini dapat melindungi hak dan memberikan kesaksamaan.

"Selain itu KKM juga perlu me-

nguruskan tekanan terhadap sumber awam. Memandangkan kekurangan tenaga kerja dan sumber yang sedia ada, perluasan perkhidmatan FPP tidak seharusnya mengurangkan penjagaan untuk pesakit awam.

"Penilaian menyeluruh terhadap kapasiti setiap hospital adalah penting sebelum memperluaskan perkhidmatan FPP bagi melindungi penyampalan penjagaan kesihatan awam," katanya.

Cadangan lain yang dikemukakan oleh HDK termasuklah mengagihkan pesakit FPP secara adil dalam kalangan doktor pakar yang layak.

"Ini bagi mengelakkan hanya segelintir pakar menguasai per-

khidmatan FPP. Selain itu, pelaksanaan had ke atas pendapatan daripada perkhidmatan FPP juga boleh mencegah keutamaan yang berat sebelah akibat insentif kewangan.

"KKM perlu menetapkan peraturan ketat dan melaksanakan audit secara berkala dalam memastikan ketelusan operasi FPP.

"Pakar dan ketua jabatan yang menyalahgunakan sistem ini harus dikenakan tindakan segera. Kementerian juga perlu menorka mekanisme pampasan yang adil untuk pekerja penjagaan kesihatan yang tidak mendapat manfaat secara langsung daripada perkhidmatan FPP," tambahnya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Akta 852 kawal produk rokok dikuat kuasa Selasa depan

Syarat ketat jual beli bahan kurangkan mudarat kesihatan terutama kepada generasi muda

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Kuala Lumpur: Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 (Akta 852) yang mengenakan syarat lebih ketat kepada peniaga dan pembeli rokok serta rokok elektronik akan dikuatkuasakan Selasa depan.

Selain peniaga, akta berkenaan juga menghalang golongan yang lahir pada 1 Januari 2007 atau selepasnya yang dikategorikan sebagai orang belum dewasa membeli dan menghisap hasil tembakau atau rokok elektronik bagi kesalahan pertama.

Golongan belum dewasa yang membeli hasil tembakau atau pengganti rokok boleh didenda maksimum RM500 atau diperintah melaksanakan khidmat masyarakat menurut Kanun Tatacara Jenayah atau Akta Kanak-Kanak 2001.

Peniaga yang menjual hasil tembakau atau rokok elektronik kepada mereka yang lahir pada atau selepas 1 Januari 2007 boleh didenda maksimum RM20,000 atau penjara setahun atau kedua-duanya bagi kesalahan pertama.

Bagi syarikat pula, boleh dikenakan denda antara RM20,000 hingga RM100,000 atau penjara dua tahun atau kedua-duanya bagi kesalahan pertama.

Kementerian Kesihatan berka-

ta, secara keseluruhannya, akta itu merangkumi peraturan pendaftaran, penjualan, pembungkusan, pelabelan dan larangan merokok di tempat awam.

Akta 852 diwartakan pada Februari lalu sehingga kini masih belum dikuatkuasakan walaupun pada mulanya diumumkan akan dilaksanakan pada Jun dan kemudiannya ditangguhkan pada Ogos.

Selain itu, produk rokok dan vape dilarang dijual melalui mesin jual automatik dan tidak boleh dijual di kawasan institusi pendidikan atau institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT).

Produk rokok dan vape juga dilarang dijual di pasar jualan atau jualan bersifat sementara seperti Uptown, Downtown, pasar malam dan sebagainya.

Kurangkan kemudahan

Sebelum ini, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata langkah Kementerian merartakan Akta 852 bermula 2 Februari lalu adalah usaha mengurangkan penggunaan produk tembakau serta mengurangkan kemudahan akibat merokok dan penggunaan lain-lain produk tembakau termasuk rokok elektronik atau vape.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, kajian Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) Malaysia 2023 menunjukkan peningkatan peratus penggunaan rokok elektronik atau vape yang amat ketara, terutama dalam kalangan orang dewasa yang berusia kurang 50 tahun sangat membimbangkan dan memerlukan tindakan yang pantas.

GATS 2023 diterbitkan Institut Kesihatan Umum, Kementerian Kesihatan dengan kerjasama Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) dan Pusat Pencegahan dan Kawalan Penyakit (CDC) Amerika Syarikat.

Dapatan utama GATS 2023 yang

ANTARA LARANGAN DALAM AKTA KAWALAN PRODUK MEROKOK DEMI KESIHATAN AWAM 2024

Tiada produk tembakau, bahan merokok atau produk pengganti tembakau boleh diimport, dikilang atau diedar melainkan didaftarkan di bawah Akta 852.

Melarang penerbitan atau memudahkan penerbitan iklan produk tembakau, bahan merokok atau produk pengganti tembakau.

Melarang iklan berkaitan produk tembakau, bahan merokok atau produk pengganti tembakau tiruan.

Larangan menjual atau mempamer bagi penjualan produk tembakau, bahan merokok atau produk pengganti tembakau.

Larangan menjual apa-apa produk tembakau atau mengedarkan apa-apa perkhidmatan untuk merokok, kepada golongan lahir pada 1 Januari 2007 dan selepasnya. Seksyen ini peruntukkan denda hingga RM20,000 atau setahun penjara bagi individu dan syarikat bagi kesalahan pertama.

Larangan mengilang, mengimport atau mengedarkan apa-apa produk tembakau, bahan merokok atau produk pengganti tembakau kecuali produk dibungkus dan dilabel mengikut kehendak yang ditetapkan.

Menteri boleh isytiharkan mana-mana bangunan atau bahagian bangunan dan kenderaan sebagai tempat larangan merokok. Merokok di kawasan larangan merokok boleh didenda maksimum RM5,000.

Mereka yang lahir pada 1 Januari 2007 dan seterusnya tidak boleh membeli apa-apa produk tembakau.

dikeluarkan pada Jun lalu mendedahkan prevalens pengguna rokok elektronik semasa meningkat secara drastik daripada 0.8 peratus pada 2011 kepada 5.8 peratus pada 2023.

Prevalens pengguna rokok elektronik dalam kalangan perokok berusia 15 hingga 24 tahun meningkat kepada 8.6 peratus pada 2023 berbanding 1.1 peratus pada 2011, menurut GATS 2023.

Selain itu, GATS 2023 mendedahkan prevalens dwipengguna iaitu tembakau dan rokok elektronik meningkat daripada 0.8 peratus pada 2011 kepada 3.9 peratus pada 2023.

CAP gesa laksana undang-undang lebih tegas

Georgetown: Persatuan Pengguna Pulau Pinang (CAP) mahu Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 (Akta 852) yang akan berkuat kuasa 1 Oktober ini dilaksanakan dengan tegas.

Pegawai Pendidikan CAP, NV Subbarow berkata, keputusan yang ditunggu-tunggu itu bukan sahaja boleh menyelamatkan nyawa manusia tetapi juga alam sekitar.

"Tidak penguatkuasaan perlu dilakukan secara berkesinambungan dengan tiada lagi amaran atau kompaun.

"Akta ini pasti menyelamatkan berjuta-juta nyawa anak muda yang ketagih rokok, vape dan e-rokok sehingga akhirnya boleh terjerumus dengan dadah berbahaya," katanya dalam kenyataan media semalam.

Subbarow berkata, antara isu lain tindakan tegas terhadap mereka yang menghisap vape di kawasan larangan merokok kerana mendakwa ia hanya lokasi untuk lara-



NV Subbarow

ngan merokok.

"Tanda amaran di zon larangan merokok bagi pengguna vape dan e-rokok mesti diletakkan termasuk di perhentian bas, pusat beli-belah serta tempat awam.

"Paling penting ialah tidak membenarkan kanak-kanak memegang atau membeli apa-apa jenis produk tembakau dan diharap kerajaan juga mestilah serius dalam menangani isu rokok dan vape," katanya.



Larangan merokok perlu diperluas ke pelbagai kawasan tumpuan awam.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 20
RUANGAN : LOKAL

CAP sokong penuh kuat kuasa Akta 852 1 Oktober

Georgetown: Persatuan Pengguna Pulau Pinang (CAP) menyokong penuh penguatkuasaan Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 (Akta 852) oleh Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) yang bakal bermula pada 1 Oktober ini.

Pegawai Pendidikan CAP, NV Subbarow berkata, keputusan yang ditunggu-tunggu itu bukan sahaja boleh menyelamatkan nyawa manusia tetapi juga alam sekitar.

"Tindakan penguatkuasaan itu perlu dilakukan secara berkesan dan tegas dengan tiada lagi beri amaran atau kompaun.

"Akta ini pasti menyelamatkan berjuta-juta nyawa anak muda yang ketagih rokok, vape dan e-rokok sehingga akhirnya terjerumus dengan dadah berbahaya," katanya dalam kenyataan media, semalam.

Mengulas lanjut Subbarow berkata, antara isu lain ialah penggunaan e-rokok atau vape di zon larangan merokok yang ramai penggunaanya menganggap ia hanya bagi menghisap rokok.

Katanya, pada masa ini tiada lagi tindakan terhadap penghisap vape di zon larangan merokok.

"Tanda amaran di zon larangan merokok bagi pengguna vape dan e-rokok mesti diletakkan termasuk di perhentian bas, pusat beli-belah serta tempat awam," katanya.

"Tindakan penguatkuasaan itu perlu dilakukan secara berkesan dan tegas dengan tiada lagi beri amaran atau kompaun"

Subbarow

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Kementerian Kesihatan sedia bantuan awal terhadap kanak-kanak rumah amal GISBH

Ada budak alami mental dan trauma

Oleh KAMARIAH KHALIDI
dan NORHAFIZAN ZULKIFLI

PUTRAJAYA — Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengenal pasti ada kanak-kanak yang diselamatkan daripada rumah amal kendalian GISB Holdings Sdn. Bhd. (GISBH) berdepan isu kesihatan mental dipercayai akibat trauma dihidapi.

Menurut Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Lukanisman Awang Sauni, ketika ini KKM telah menyediakan bantuan rawatan diperlukan termasuk sistem sokongan kesihatan mental.

"Kita mengenal pasti beberapa isu masalah mental dalam kalangan kanak-kanak yang diselamatkan dan kita akan beri maklumat itu secara terperinci kerana ketika ini masih lagi dalam operasi menyelamatkan kanak-kanak GISBH di seluruh negara.

"Diakui memang ada kanak-kanak itu yang memerlukan sistem sokongan kesihatan mental kerana mereka dipisahkan dari-



GAMBAR fail menunjukkan sebahagian kanak-kanak yang diselamatkan dari rumah amal kendalian GISBH.

pada keluarga dan ada yang tidak tahu keadaan sebenar (yang terjadi) kepada diri mereka.

"Jadi, ini adalah proses yang kita serahkan kepada semua pakar-pakar (psikologi) yang dihantar ke Pusat Latihan Polis (Pu-

lapol)," katanya di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas berhubung keadaan kesihatan kanak-kanak GISBH yang diselamatkan.

Sebelum ini, Lukanisman melaporkan, seramai 13 pakar

psikologi daripada Pusat Kece-merlangan Kesihatan Mental Kebangsaan (NCEMH) dan Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL) disediakan bagi merawat kanak-kanak diselamatkan menerusi Op Global.

Sementara itu, di **Temerloh**,

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kerja Raya, Pengangkutan dan Kesihatan Pahang, Datuk Ir Razali Kassim berkata, lima kanak-kanak termasuk tiga beradik sedang menerima rawatan di Hospital Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah (Hshas) Temerloh.

Menurutnya, kesemuanya yang berusia antara empat hingga 12 tahun itu dirujuk sebagai kes penderaan dan pengabaian.

Katanya, hasil pemeriksaan awal ke atas mereka mendapati terdapat kesan parut lecur lama dan lebam di badan kanak-kanak tersebut.

"Susulan itu siasatan lanjut dan temubual dilaksanakan bagi mencari punca sebenar bagi kesan parut lecur dan lebam tersebut," katanya.

Tambahnya lagi, selain daripada siasatan terhadap kecederaan fizikal, semua kanak-kanak terabit turut disiasat bagi mengenal pasti simptom dan tanda-tanda kekurangan zat makanan dan kekurangan berat badan.

KERATAN Kosmo/14 September 2024.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : MUKA DEPAN
RUANGAN : MUKA DEPAN

Naik harga lantai rokok lebih baik daripada larang produk dilihat

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PETALING JAYA: Peraturan baharu Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dalam Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 (Akta 852) yang bakal diperkenalkan dijangka memberi kesan kepada pihak-pihak terlibat dalam produk tembakau.

Menteri Kesihatan telah mengumumkan melalui media sosial bahawa Akta 852, peraturan dan perintahnya akan dikuatkuasakan untuk bermula 1 Oktober 2024.

Antara peraturan baharu itu adalah melarang peniaga rokok dan vape menjualnya secara terbuka termasuk jika diletakkan di rak, kabinet itu perlu bertutup supaya tidak dilihat di tempat jualan.

Langkah yang bertujuan mengawal penggunaan produk tembakau terutama dalam kalangan generasi muda di bawah umur 18 tahun itu bukan sahaja dilihat sukar mencapai matlamatnya tetapi juga bakal memberi kesan terhadap peniaga industri itu.

Ini menyebabkan beberapa pekedai dan penjual rokok yang ditemui merasakan adalah lebih baik kerajaan menaikkan cukai dan harga lantai rokok untuk produk berkenaan berbanding mengenakan peraturan menjualnya secara tertutup.

"Larangan menjual secara terbuka termasuk menyembunyikan produk dari pandangan awam akan lebih menjejaskan perniagaan kami berbanding menaikkan harga produk ini," kata seorang peniaga di Perlis yang tidak mahu namanya didedahkan.



PENIAGA tidak boleh lagi menjual rokok dan vape secara terbuka apabila Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2023 (Akta 852) dilaksanakan tidak lama lagi.

“

Saya lebih menyokong kalau kerajaan menaikkan cukai rokok. Walaupun ia bakal menyebabkan harga produk akan naik, itu lebih daripada menjual secara 'sembunyi-sembunyi' yang akan mendedahkan kepada banyak penyelewengan produk seludup,”

LIANA BAHRIN

Industri rokok telah wujud di negara ini sejak sekian lama dan vape mula popular sekitar 2012 turut membuka banyak peluang ekonomi dan pekerjaan kepada mereka yang terlibat secara langsung dalam industri itu.

Bagaimanapun, pelaksanaan larangan mempamerkan produk rokok dan vape secara terbuka

dengan regulasi ketat khususnya kepada produk vape dilihat bakal wujudkan pasaran gelap dalam industri tersebut.

Malah banyak pihak menyifatkan larangan menjual produk rokok dan vape secara terbuka tidak akan mengubah tabiat merokok.

Kebanyakan peniaga rokok

juga lebih cenderung sekiranya kerajaan menaikkan kadar cukai sedia ada terhadap produk tembakau dan menetapkan satu harga minimum yang lebih munasabah.

Seorang pekerja kedai runcit di Taman Makmur, Kluang, Johor, Liana Bahrin, 24, berkata, peraturan penggunaan kabinet bertutup terhadap rokok akan menyebabkan peruncit kecil seperti majikannya terpaksa mengeluarkan kos sendiri untuk membeli dan memasang perkakas itu di premis.

Pada masa sama, katanya, ia juga akan memberi kesan kepada jualan rokok bercukai di premis tersebut.

"Jualan rokok di sini bukanlah banyak mana pun, sehari lebih kurang 10 kotak sahaja, jika terpaksa akur dengan pelaksanaan peraturan baharu KKM itu mungkin akan memberikan

kesan kepada perniagaan.

"Saya lebih menyokong kalau kerajaan menaikkan cukai rokok. Walaupun ia bakal menyebabkan harga produk akan naik, itu lebih baik daripada membuatkan peniaga menjual secara 'sembunyi-sembunyi' atau seperti menjalankan perniagaan yang tidak sah," katanya.

Sementara itu, di Johor Bahru, seorang peniaga yang dikenali sebagai Raihan berharap satu kabinet bertutup khas untuk menyimpan rokok itu sekiranya rak rokok di kaunter barisan tidak lagi boleh digunakan.

Katanya, ini kerana kedainya yang menjual hampir 10 jenama rokok pelbagai jenis tiada ruang untuk menyimpan rokok itu sekiranya rak rokok di kaunter barisan tidak lagi boleh digunakan. "Sebelum ini, kita ada dengar cadangan rokok diletakkan di kabinet bertutup. Jadi, ia perlu disediakan supaya kita mudah untuk ambil dan jual kepada pelanggan.

"Dengan adanya kabinet bertutup itu, setidaknya pelanggan tahu kita ada menjual rokok di kedai ini," katanya.

Langkah itu juga tidak disenangi oleh perokok malah menyifatkannya tidak membantu dalam menangani isu merokok dalam kalangan generasi muda.

Seorang pengguna di Johor Bahru, Shahrul Adib Anuar, 30, pula berkata, langkah kerajaan yang melarang peniaga mempamerkan rokok secara terbuka di premis dilihat tidak memberi kesan atau mengubah sikap perokok tersebut.

Katanya, selama ini pelbagai kaedah dan larangan dibuat kerajaan termasuk tidak membenarkan individu merokok di restoran namun ia tidak mengubah sebarang keadaan.

Bersambung di muka 2

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Naik harga lantai rokok lebih baik daripada larang produk dilihat

Dari muka 1

"Saya tidak merasakan itu sebagai langkah yang terbaik kerana pelanggan tetap tahu kedai terbabit menjual rokok walaupun ia tidak dipamerkan di belakang kaunter bayaran.

"Pada saya menaikkan kadar cukai dan harga lantai rokok itu lebih baik berbanding cadangan untuk melarang jualan secara terbuka itu kerana ia mewujudkan situasi menang-menang kepada kerajaan dan peniaga," ujarnya.

Seorang lagi pengguna, Mohammad Hafiz Abdul Rahman, 37, berkata, larangan menjual rokok secara terbuka dilihat tidak wajar.

Katanya, menjual produk tembakau yang telah dikenakan cukai bukanlah satu kesalahan dan ini hanya akan menyusahkan peniaga.

Katanya, jika pihak kerajaan benar-benar mahu angka perokok berkurangan, salah satu caranya adalah dengan menaikkan harga jualan rokok tersebut.

"Dalam mendepani kos sara hidup yang tinggi ketika ini, perokok pasti berkira-kira untuk membelanjakan lebih bagi membeli rokok yang semakin mahal.

"Bukan mudah untuk mengubah tabiat perokok ini, namun itu salah satu cara yang berkesan," ujarnya.

Seorang peniaga kedai runcit yang mahu dikenali sebagai Rahmat berkata, ada baiknya kerajaan mengenakan cukai lebih tinggi terhadap rokok daripada mengenakan syarat seperti kabinet tertutup dan pelbagai syarat lain yang menyukarkan.

"Naikkan cukai daripada 40 sen sebatang rokok ketika ini kepada satu harga lebih tinggi, sekurang-kurangnya kerajaan juga dapat hasil daripada produk tembakau. Syarat jualan secara tertutup itu seperti kami menjual barang haram," katanya.

Seorang peniaga yang dikenali sebagai Shamsudin, 39, pula berkata, larangan menjual rokok secara terbuka tidak praktikal kerana produk tembakau itu boleh dibeli pelanggan berusia 18 tahun ke atas.

Menurutnya, tindakan itu tidak akan mengubah hasrat perokok untuk berhenti tabiat buruk itu malah menyukarkan proses urusan niaga dijalankan.

"Dulu pun kita sudah menjual rokok secara selindung dengan menggunakan kabinet tertutup, ia tidak praktikal dan kembali kepada asal. Yang selalu beli, tetap akan datang beli.

"Jadi, saya rasa larangan menjual rokok secara terbuka ini tidak memberi impak, perokok ini tahu baik buruk tabiat mereka itu," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, pengusaha kedai runcit Lian Sheng, 30-



PERATURAN melarang rokok dan vape dijual di rak secara terbuka sebaliknya menggunakan kabinet tertutup hanya akan meningkatkan kos peniaga kedai.



SELAIN disyaratkan meletak notis larangan menjual vape kepada Orang Belum Dewasa (OBD), kedai menjual vape juga tidak boleh dilihat jelas dari luar.

an berkata, langkah tersebut akan menjejaskan pendapatan mereka kerana menjual produk tembakau itu bukanlah satu kesalahan.

Dia turut mempersoalkan kenapa perlu mengambil tindakan sedemikian rupa seakan-akan mereka adalah penjual rokok tanpa cukai yang diseludup dari negara jiran.

"Ini boleh menyebabkan jualan berkurang kerana pelanggan ingat kita tak ada stok rokok yang kebiasaan boleh nampak di kaunter bayaran.

"Syarikat (rokok) pun bayar cukai, saya fikir tak perlu jual sorok-sorok, lagipun sudah banyak kempen berhenti rokok dibuat. Lagipun yang jual sorok-sorok biasanya rokok haram," ujarnya.

Bagi seorang peniaga vape di Sungai Petani, Kedah, Izat Yusof, 22, peraturan baharu itu bakal menyusahkan peniaga kerana kebiasaannya pengguna mahu mencuba dahulu produk yang dijual.

"Rokok tidak boleh dicuba sebelum dibeli, sedangkan vape boleh dipilih pelanggan mengikut kemahuan mereka dan sudah semestinya pelanggan ingin melihat dahulu sebelum membeli.

"Jika tidak dijual seperti sekarang bagaimana pelanggan berpeluang mencubanya sebelum membuat keputusan membeli yang secara langsung akan membolehkan kami mendapat pendapatan," katanya.

Seorang pengusaha vape di Kuala Lumpur yang ingin dikenali sebagai Angah, 38, pula berkata, dia bukan sahaja memiliki tiga premis di Setiawangsa dan Wangsa Maju malah pernah menjualnya di pasaran United Kingdom (UK) serta beberapa negara lain di Eropah.

Katanya, layanan diterima pengusaha vape ditempatkan amat berbeza berbanding yang dilihatnya di luar negara kerana Kementerian Kesihatan UK sendiri menyokong industri e-rokok bagi menggantikan rokok konvensional yang lebih mudarat.

vensional yang lebih mudarat.

"Di Eropah khususnya di UK, mereka sudah ada regulasi sejak sekian lama namun jauh berbeza dengan yang mahu dilaksanakan oleh KKM kerana mereka menggalakkan perokok beralih kepada vape.

"Bukan itu saja, malah di beberapa hospital di UK juga disediakan booth (ruai) vape, namun apa yang berlaku di sini, KKM menyukarkan pemain industri dengan regulasi yang terlalu ketat.

"UK juga ada regulasi tapi mereka tidak melarang produk vape dilihat atau dipamerkan di tempat jualan," katanya.

Utusan Malaysia baru-baru ini melaporkan KKM akan memperkenankan larangan baharu dalam Akta 852 antaranya mewajibkan peniaga rokok menggunakan kabinet tertutup di premis masing-masing termasuk kedai serbaneka.

Bagi kedai khas menjual rokok dan vape pula, produk mereka dibenar dipamerkan di dalam kedai tetapi tidak boleh dilihat dengan jelas dari luar premis.

Akta itu juga menggariskan larangan penjualan rokok dan vape melalui dalam talian ke atas semua platform bagi mengelakkan ia dibeli oleh OBD.

Selain itu, produk rokok dan vape juga dilarang dijual melalui mesin vending dan tidak boleh dijual di kawasan institusi pendidikan atau institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT).

Akhir sekali, produk rokok dan vape juga dilarang dijual di pasar jualan atau mana-mana pasar jualan bersifat sementara seperti Uptown, Downtown, pasar malam dan sebagainya.

Pada masa sama, Suriyati juga menzahirkan kebim-

ngannya dengan pelaksanaan cermin gelap di kedai khas vape yang boleh mengundang jenayah memandangkan orang luar tidak dapat melihat aktiviti di dalam kedai.

"Saya ada beberapa pekerja wanita di kedai, larangan ini mungkin membahayakan keselamatan pekerja jika ada pihak tidak bertanggungjawab mengambil kesempatan untuk melakukan jenayah dan sebagainya," katanya.

Seorang lagi pengusaha vape yang mahu dikenali sebagai Razman, 42, mendakwa, pemain industri berharap KKM tidak melaksanakan peraturan yang terlampau drastik dalam mengawal selia industri vape.

Katanya, kebanyakan pemain industri sememangnya sudah mengharapakan regulasi terhadap industri vape diperkenalkan bahkan menerima wujudnya akta tersebut.

"Tetapi apa yang dihasratkan oleh kami tidak dipedulikan. Kami melihat akan wujud pasaran gelap apabila larangan-larangan ini diperkenalkan," katanya.

Seorang pengguna vape, Fazrik Razali, 30, berkata, larangan terbaharu KKM sebenarnya tidak menyelesaikan masalah kerana rokok dan vape masih boleh didapati secara haram yang sehingga kini masih berleluasa tak kira di bandar mahu pun luar bandar.

"Betul vape juga ada mudarat, tetapi regulasi KKM terhadap cecairnya, perantarnya saya rasa sudah cukup menjadikan ia sebagai pengganti rokok konvensional," katanya.

Peniaga produk tembakau juga berasa ragu dengan keberkesanan Akta 852 yang bertujuan mengawal produk tembakau.

Menurut mereka, walaupun peniaga berlesen dikenakan pelbagai syarat untuk menjual rokok dan vape apabila akta itu diperkenalkan, ramai lagi penjual haram di tepi jalan, pasar malam atau kedai waga asing menjual produk berkenaan termasuk rokok atau vape seludup.

Sebab itulah kata pihak yang terlibat dalam industri tersebut, lebih baik kerajaan memikirkan untuk menaikkan kadar cukai produk tembakau dan menaikkan harga minimum jualan rokok di pasaran.

Langkah itu dilihat lebih wajar dilakukan kerana ia mewujudkan situasi menang-menang antara kerajaan dan pihak industri daripada menetapkan pelbagai syarat ketat jualan rokok seperti larangan menjualnya secara terbuka di rak-rak kedai, yang hanya akan menyukarkan peniaga dan boleh menjejaskan perniagaan mereka.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

INCLUDING VAPES

NEW SMOKING CONTROL ACT STARTS OCT 1

Health minister hopes it will curb tobacco use, reduce associated harm

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THE Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 (Act 852), which includes control of vape products, will come into force on Oct 1.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the law aimed to ban the sale and purchase of tobacco products, smoking materials and tobacco substitutes, including vape and any electronic smoking devices to minors.

In a post on the Health Ministry's social media page, he said Act 852 covered regulations on smoking and tobacco products registration, sale, packaging and labelling, as well as a smoking ban at public places.

Earlier it was reported that the yet-to-be-implemented law was initially supposed to be enforced beginning June, but was later postponed to August.

Dr Dzulkefly had said that the gazetting of Act 852 on Feb 2 was part of efforts to curb tobacco use and reduce the harm associated with smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes or vapes.

He highlighted that the 2023 Global Adult Tobacco Survey for Malaysia indicated a significant increase in e-cigarette or vape usage, particularly among adults below age 50.

"This rise is alarming and necessitates decisive action," he was reported to have said.

The Health Ministry had also faced criticism for its failure to enforce Act 852, which has hindered the implementation of regulations prohibiting the sale of vape and e-cigarette to children.

With the long anticipated enforcement regulations coming into place, the growing concern over smoking, e-cigarettes, unregulated use of vape and its impact on public health, particularly among youth and minors, should be addressed soon.

In an immediate reaction, the

Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP) education officer N.V. Subbarow called on authorities to carry out strict and regular enforcement.

"Currently, there is minimal enforcement regarding vaping in these areas.

"Many vapers believe that some of these regulations only apply to cigarette smokers.

"They feel these provisions do not apply to them and may use that as an excuse to evade penalties."

Subbarow also suggested that the ministry make it compulsory for no-smoking zones to put up warning signs against the use of vape and e-cigarettes as well.

These signage, he said, must be put up at all public spaces, including bus stops, streets, office buildings and shopping complexes, to make sure that everyone understands the law.

"CAP fully supports Act 852, but we need good enforcement action to make sure the Act truly meets its purpose."

He added that CAP had waited a long time for the amended Act 852 to take effect and believes it would help save younger generations from adopting the habit.



A man smoking at an eatery, which is a no-smoking zone, in Kuala Lumpur in 2022. FILE PIC

"The Act must be comprehensive in every possible way without leaving any gaps. Punishments imposed under the amended Act must correspond to the severity of the offences, serving as a deterrent to others.

"No more warnings or fines for smokers or offenders who do not comply with the law."

CAP has been urging the government to ban the display of

vape products, e-cigarettes, cigarettes and other tobacco-related items at payment counters in shops to protect youth from smoking and vaping.

Subbarow said that minors were easy targets for the industry, especially with the wide range of attractive vape products designed with eye-catching colours, designs and various flavours.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATION

No sugar in the House on Wednesdays

By MARTIN CARVALHO
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KUALA LUMPUR: Those attending the coming Parliament proceedings will have to leave their sweet-tooth behind on Wednesdays, which will be a "sugar free" day in the august House, says Tan Sri Johari Abdul.

The Dewan Rakyat Speaker said the ruling would be enforced at the start of the Parliament meeting that will run from Oct 14 to Dec 12.

"The ruling covers all who are in Parliament, including the media. We will ensure that sugar is not added to drinks," he said at an engagement session with the media yesterday.

"Those who want to bring in drinks, will have to see to it if there is sugar in it or not.

"The move is being done so that we will become a more healthy society," he explained.

On Sept 8, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim told the public to take health knowledge seriously, particularly regarding the dangers of excessive sugar consumption.

The Prime Minister said this was due to the fact that Malaysia has the highest number of diabetes cases in South-East Asia, reflecting that the level of health literacy in the country is low.

Johari also said that he would continue with the practice of getting MPs to undergo mandatory medical examinations and declare their health status.

"There are MPs who informed me that they discovered to having illnesses since undergoing their health screenings. They are now undergoing treatment and taking medication," he said.

In July this year, Johari announced mandatory health screening for all MPs – which had to be done by November.

Last year, Johari said he had

seen at least 11 MPs collapse during his time in the House over the past 15 years.

On a separate matter, Johari said that the Blue Bill for the revival of the long-awaited Parliamentary Services Act (PSA) was ready for tabling during the coming Parliament meeting.

"I call on MPs to support the Bill. The revival of the PSA will show the world that separation of powers is truly practiced in Malaysia," he added.

The PSA was first enacted in 1963, just a few months before the formation of Malaysia.

It allowed Parliament to act as a truly independent body, running its own affairs, selecting its staff, and control its expenditure.

However, it was repealed during the administration of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1992.

Since then, there had been numerous calls from civil society for its revival to ensure the inde-

pendence of Parliament.

Meanwhile, Johari said the Dewan Rakyat has not received a motion of no confidence against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"What I have heard are mere rumours and just a lot of talk about a motion of no confidence. So far there has been nothing yet," he said.

He noted that such a motion must be submitted to Dewan Rakyat according to procedures.

"If there is to be such a motion, it has to be submitted formally in black and white. It can't be done by just a telephone call or through email," he added.

On Sept 20, Anwar had challenged the Opposition to table a vote of no confidence against him in the upcoming Dewan Rakyat session.

PAS's youth wing had called for Anwar to step down as Prime Minister during the party's 70th muktamar recently.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NATION

Enforce Act to save lives

Don't just issue warnings, take action to curb smoking, say advocates

By RAGANANTHINI
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PETALING JAYA: Strong enforcement is the key to curb smoking, health advocates say, as the much delayed anti-smoking law will be enforced on Oct 1 – almost a year after it was passed in Parliament.

The Malaysian Council for Tobacco Control (MCTC) president Dr M. Murallitharan said it has taken some years to arrive to this day since the first draft of the anti-smoking Bill was brought to Parliament by former health minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

The group, he said, is "very relieved" that the regulations are finally going to be enforced and both conventional cigarettes and new smoking products such as vapes and e-cigarettes will be regulated.

"I think there has been more than enough time for all parties to be prepared and do the needful for the industry to gain. To call for

more time to enforce I think it is not really an honest ask," he said.

"I think enough time has passed and the sale of vape and e-cigarettes continues to be a problem, especially for minors. Only with the implementation of this law will control finally come into effect."

He said the industry too needs to understand that it has been operating in a grey area and this is the price to pay for legalisation.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act (Act 852) will take effect on Oct 1.

The Act covers regulations on the registration, sale, packaging, labelling and the prohibition of smoking in public places.

The rules and orders that will be enforced include electronic cigarettes.

The Control of Smoking Products for Public Health 2023 Bill was passed in the Dewan Rakyat on Nov 30 last year. It

received royal assent on Jan 24 this year and was published in the Federal Gazette on Feb 2.

Consumers Association of Penang senior education officer and anti-smoking activist NV Subbarow said the enforcement of Act 852 must be stringent.

"Act 852 will definitely save millions of young lives who are addicted to smoking and vaping, which could eventually lead to drug addiction," he said.

"The enforcement of the Act must be effective. It shouldn't be just about issuing warnings. Action must be taken," he said.

"Another issue is vaping and using e-cigarettes at no smoking zones. Many vapers feel that it's only for smoking cigarettes," he said while lamenting the lack of strict action.

The Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association tobacco and smoking control coordinator, Muhammad Sha'ani Abdullah, said there has been a vacuum in the regulatory regime, with out-

dated standards.

"The lack of regulation for smoking substance has led to the use of vape and e-cigarettes among children.

"We hope under the new regulation all display of smoking products will be banned at all points of sale and no form of advertisement will be featured at all vape shops," he said.

He also expressed concern over the influence of lobby from the vape and tobacco industry.

The Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2023 found that there has been a 600% increase in the number of e-cigarette users in the country over the past 12 years.

The study pointed out that the prevalence of e-cigarette or vape use among those in the 15-24 age group increased from 1.1% in 2011 to 8.6% last year.

It also found that about 60% of smokers between the ages of 20 and 34 had their first puff before turning 18.

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

'Mental health key to successful organisations'

► Psychological issues need attention as they can affect individual well-being and productivity, says chief secretary

PUTRAJAYA: A well-balanced organisation with a healthy workforce is proven to help improve the quality of work and life in general, said Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

He said outstanding organisations can also help the government speed up the nation's development process.

"Awareness and knowledge related to psychology and mental well-being must always be a priority to achieve organisational objectives and build high-value human capital, in line with the mission and vision of the Prime Minister's Department specifically," he said in his speech on Tuesday, that was read by the department's Senior Deputy Secretary-General Datuk Abd Shukor Mahmood, during the opening of the department's Psychology Seminar 2024.

Shamsul Azri said psychological health issues or mental health problems, such as emotional stress, are among the public health issues that need attention as they can affect individual well-being and the productivity

of an organisation.

He said the findings of the Health Ministry's 2023 National Health and Morbidity Survey showed that one million, or 4.6%, of Malaysians aged 16 and above suffer from depression.

He added that the 2023 Malaysian Psychological Well-Being Index Study, which involved 159,633 public officials, showed that the Psychological Well-Being Index was at a moderate level of 7.5, Bernama reported.

"This means that continuous and comprehensive efforts must be taken to ensure that the level of psychological well-being continues to improve.

"All parties, whether department heads, human resource managers, supervisors or individuals, have a role in continuing to improve themselves by managing their thoughts, emotions and behaviour in a more positive direction."

Shamsul Azri also called on public officials, especially in the Prime Minister's Department, to always be sensitive and alert to family

members or people around them to identify early symptoms of depression that could contribute to aggressive behaviour.

He said psychological health is the responsibility of every public official, just like physical health.

Shamsul Azri said public officials need to take advantage of the Civil Servant Psychological Health Digital Profiling System, which aims to help public officials understand their own situation in terms of psychological health risks.

"If the findings indicate the need to get help, then get it from specialists or psychologists at the department or within your respective agencies."

The two-day seminar, which ended yesterday, was attended by 400 participants, including personnel, agencies and departments under the Prime Minister's Department.

The seminar was held in conjunction with National Counselling Month and World Mental Health Day, observed on Oct 10 each year by the World Health Organisation.

It aims to raise awareness about the importance of comprehensive mental health management in organisations through proper channels and educate civil servants on mental health issues and their impact on the quality of work and life.

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

Higher budget allocation needed for healthcare, says MMA

KUALA LUMPUR: An overall healthcare allocation increase for the upcoming Budget 2025 is needed to allow more meaningful improvements and reforms in the healthcare system.

Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) president Datuk Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira said the Health White Paper goal of increasing the health budget to 5% of the nation's gross domestic product should be met sooner, as over 70% of Malaysians rely on public healthcare services for their needs.

He said to increase efficiency in the

administration at public healthcare facilities and address the issue of overcrowding, MMA also proposes increasing funding for digitalisation in public healthcare such as for an online dashboard listing the services and number of appointments available.

For the private healthcare sector, Kalwinder emphasised the importance of public-private collaborations, particularly in the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases (NCD) as over half a million, or 2.5%, of Malaysian adults were living with four NCD in 2023, while nearly 2.3 million

adults would have three.

"The 13,000 private GPs (general practitioners) who play an important role in prevention and health education are still under-utilised in addressing NCD.

"A public-private collaboration with the wide distribution of private GPs can significantly improve effectiveness in the management of NCD," he said.

Kalwinder also said tax rebates should be given to doctors for them to upscale knowledge, including participating and attending courses or conferences organised by

professional bodies.

To encourage more Malaysians to adopt a healthy lifestyle, MMA also looks forward to the new Sugar-Sweetened Beverage tax to be introduced in Budget 2025 as part the Health Ministry's "War on Sugar" initiative.

"We look forward to further details on this initiative and along with this initiative, we would like to see tax revenue from the sale of tobacco and alcohol products channelled to the health budget specifically for programmes to treat NCD at public healthcare facilities."

Kalwinder said MMA also has suggested the government create the *Khas Untuk Penyandang (KUP) Gred Khas C* posts for specialists who have been stagnating at the UD56 scale.

"The last such promotion exercise was in 2012, in which a few hundred KUP Khas C posts were specially created and this enabled many doctors to move up to *Gred Khas C*. After 13 years, another one-off creation of KUP Khas C is very much required to help retain experienced senior doctors who are needed to treat, teach and mentor in the public sector," he said. — Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

Doctor denies spreading fear of Pfizer vaccine

SEPANG: Charged with making and initiating the transmission of offensive videos about the Covid-19 vaccine, Dr Roland Victor has denied instilling fear in Malaysians or discouraging anyone from taking the Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine.

The 42-year-old KL Sky Clinic founder said he has never prevented the public or viewers of his videos from opting for the vaccine.

"I have no intention of scaring anyone. However, it should be clear that medicines could be hazardous. If patients do not know how to use them correctly, they may result in danger."

He was responding to a question from his lawyer Datuk Ahmad Zaidi Zainal during his defence trial before Judge Ahmad Fuad Othman

at the Sessions Court here on Tuesday.

Ahmad Zaidi: Is there any part of the videos in which you advise the public or viewers against taking the Pfizer vaccine?

Roland: No.

Ahmad Zaidi: So, what was your real intention in making the videos?

Roland: My intention in creating these videos is to provide health advice to the public, making it easier for them to understand medical knowledge.

He said every individual has the right to choose whether or not to be vaccinated.

DPP Ahmad Zuhaini Muhamad Amin appeared for the prosecution.

On March 21, Ahmad Fuad ordered Roland to

enter his defence on the charge after finding that the prosecution had succeeded in establishing a *prima facie* case against him.

On July 5, 2021, Roland was charged with making and initiating the transmission of videos with the intent to annoy others using the Facebook profile page "The KL Sky Clinic" at 10.30pm on Feb 7, 2021.

He is charged under Section 233 (1) (a) of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 and may be punished under Section 233 (3) of the same Act, which provides a maximum fine of RM50,000, up to one year's jail, or both, and a further fine of RM1,000 for each day the offence continues after conviction.

The trial will resume on Nov 4. — Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : SPEAK UP

RECENTLY, British MPs supported a plan to ban the sale of cigarettes to anyone born after 2009, a move that is expected to become law.

The measures, championed by former UK prime minister Rishi Sunak, succeeded despite opposition from several prominent Tory figures, including two former UK prime ministers.

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill was passed in Parliament by 383 votes to 67.

If enacted, the UK's smoking laws will become some of the strictest in the world.

The UK's approach appears to be inspired by a similar law in New Zealand, which was later repealed after a change in government. The plan aims to create a "smoke-free generation" in the UK.

The restrictions will apply to the sale of cigarettes, not the act of smoking itself.

Under the new law, the legal age for purchasing cigarettes - currently 18 - will increase by one year each year.

This means that individuals born in or after 2009 will never be able to legally buy cigarettes, resulting in a gradual, effective ban.

However, those who are currently of legal age to purchase cigarettes will not be affected.

To combat underage sales, the government plans to introduce £100 (RM559) on-the-spot fines for shops in England and Wales that sell tobacco or vapes to underage individuals.

Local authorities will retain the proceeds to fund enforcement efforts. This would be in addition to existing £2,500 fines that courts can already impose.

The government has pledged to spend £30 million on enforcement, including measures to curb the black-market sale of cigarettes.

The new rules will apply to all duty-free shops in the UK, but people will still be allowed to bring cigarettes into the UK if they were legally purchased abroad.

The UK government aims to implement the new system by 2027, with Sunak intending to collaborate with the governments of Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland to introduce the legislation across the UK.

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill also

Moving forward with smoke-free generation laws

seeks to address the rising issue of vaping among young people who have never smoked.

In Malaysia, the situation is somewhat different.

Parliament has passed the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 (Act 852), but the law has excluded the Generational End Game (GEG) policy, which was introduced by the previous government.

This decision is seen as disappointing by many who believe it signals a lack of commitment to eliminating smoking and vaping addictions, especially among the younger generation.

While there is a possibility that the GEG may be reconsidered in the future, there is no certainty.

The GEG was initially proposed in the Control of Tobacco Product and Smoking Bill 2022, which aimed to not only regulate items such as electronic cigarettes but also introduce a Generational End Game.

The goal was to reduce smoking by preventing younger generations from ever starting.

Initially, the GEG would have applied to those born in 2005 and later, banning them from buying or possessing any smoking products, including vapes, even after they turned 18.

After consultations with stakeholders, the policy was adjusted to apply to those born in 2007 onwards, to allow more time for education and enforcement.

It is well-known that smoking not only degrades air quality but also endangers those exposed to secondhand smoke.

According to the World Health Organisation and other health bodies, there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke, which is linked to heart disease, cancer and many other serious illnesses.

"Although significant progress has been made through legislation, more must be done to combat smoking addiction, particularly among the younger generation."



It is well-known that smoking not only degrades air quality but also endangers those exposed to secondhand smoke - BERNAMAPIC

Similar to cigarettes, vaping also poses health risks.

For these reasons, the government must continue taking proactive steps to protect its citizens from the dangers of smoking and vaping.

When balancing the right to clean air and a healthy environment against the right of individuals to smoke, the former should prevail.

Smokers cannot claim human rights as a defence against government efforts to curb smoking.

There is no explicit right to smoke in either the Federal Constitution or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As such, smokers cannot argue that measures to reduce smoking infringe upon their basic human rights, nor can vape users.

In Malaysia, smoking is prohibited in designated public places and workplaces, including buildings with centralised air-conditioning, health and education facilities, government

offices and indoor stadiums.

Since Jan 1, 2020, Malaysia has also enforced a smoking ban at eateries.

Although significant progress has been made through legislation, more must be done to combat smoking addiction, particularly among the younger generation.

This is why the GEG provisions are crucial, they would strengthen existing laws.

A standalone law regulating smoking products is inadequate without the GEG policy.

If the bill is deemed unconstitutional, steps can be taken to amend the Federal Constitution to enable the GEG.

We should not use constitutional issues as an excuse to delay the implementation of this key policy.

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