

Vape prices may jump 1,000%

Health Ministry proposes steep excise hike to curb use

By **TEH ATHIRA YUSOF**
tehathirayusof@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: The prices of vape liquids may increase by 1,000% following a proposal by the Health Ministry to increase the tax rate aimed at curbing the widespread purchase of the item, says the Health Ministry.

Deputy Minister Datuk Lukanisman Awang Sauni said this was a proposal by the ministry to the Finance Ministry to be included in Budget 2026.

"The Health Ministry has proposed to the Finance Ministry that the tax rate for vape liquids, which is currently at 40sen per ml, be raised to RM4 per ml," he told the *Dewan Rakyat* yesterday.

Lukanisman was responding to Datuk Wan Saiful Wan Jan (PN-Tasek Gelugor), who wanted to know the current actions taken by the Health Ministry to curb the widespread use of vapes in the country following Budget 2026, while the government works on

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He said that the tax rate for a stick of cigarette is around 10 puffs compared to 1ml of vape liquid, which equals 100 puffs.

The current excise duty of 40sen per ml is levied on all vape liquids, regardless of nicotine content, as of May 1, 2023.

He added that nicotine is still fundamentally regulated under the Poisons Act 1952.

"The previous exemption applied only to liquid or gel

preparations containing nicotine intended for smoking purposes.

"Now, electronic cigarette liquids are regulated under the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 or Act 852, which comes into effect on Oct 1 this year," he said.

He was replying to a question from Datuk Dr Zulkefperi Hanapi (PN-Tanjong Karang), who wanted to know the ministry's readiness to reclassify nicotine into the National Poisons List as vape has

now become a serious public health issue affecting youths and school students. Act 852 covers the registration, advertising, sale, packaging, labelling, price control and manufacturing of all smoking products, including electronic cigarettes or vape liquids.

Under Section 3 of this Act, Lukanisman said all smoking products, including electronic cigarettes or vapes must be registered with the Health Ministry before they can be imported, manufactured or distributed.

"Failure to do so constitutes an offence and may result in a fine, imprisonment or both," he added.

While the ministry is working towards banning vape products in the country, he said such a move must be implemented before vape-related health cases increase.

Lukanisman added that existing data involving smoking products, including vapes showed 46 cases were related to e-cigarette and vaping product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) cases.

Vaping rises even as smoking falls in M'sia

By **BENJAMIN LEE and RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM**
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: James has been smoking since he was 12. By the time he turned 18, he was burning through a pack of cigarettes a day.

Now 23, James thought switching to vape was a form of harm reduction.

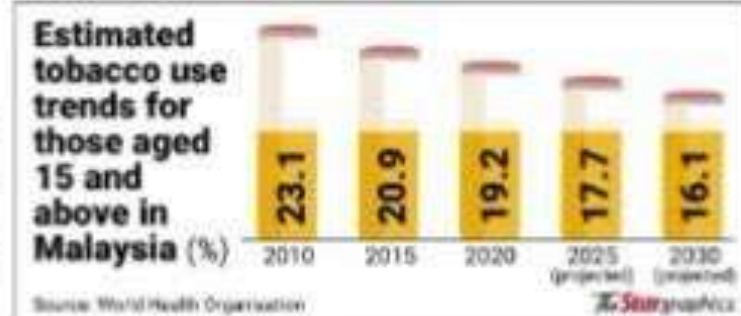
But just a year after vaping, James realised he was suffering from shortness of breath and could not even climb a flight of stairs without panting.

"Whenever I take a sip of a hot drink, I cough. My throat has become more sensitive," he said.

It was then that he realised it was time to quit smoking altogether.

Tobacco is a major killer that has claimed over seven million lives globally, but a recent World Health Organisation (WHO) report found that tobacco use has been on a downturn globally.

Instead, there has been a shift from smoking to vaping. The report found that global tobacco



use fell from 1.38 billion users in 2000 to 1.2 billion in 2024.

WHO also reported that smoking in Malaysia is forecast to fall from an estimated 23.1% in 2010 to 16.1% in 2030.

In the report released yesterday, WHO estimated that at least 86 million adults and 15 million minors aged between 13-15 are already using e-cigarettes. In some countries, children are on average nine times more likely to vape than adults.

Describing the numbers as alarming, WHO said more than 100 million people worldwide are now vaping.

Anti-smoking advocates have also noticed this trend.

Consumers Association of Penang senior education officer NV Subbarow said youths prefer the fruity and sweet flavours of vape products.

"Most youths now hate smoking because of the smell. About 80% of former smokers have told me they switched to vaping."

"The variety of sweet flavours, like chocolate and grape, along with the bright rainbow colours, really appeals to the youths and even attracts non-smoking youths," he said.

"This is worrying."

Malaysian Council for Tobacco Control president Assoc Prof Dr M. Muralidharan also said the decreasing prevalence of smoking in Malaysia was misleading and could lead to a significant negative backlash in the future if the vaping epidemic is not addressed.

"Not only do we have existing smokers converting to vape, we have also seen a significant rise in previously non-tobacco users beginning to vape too."

"The decrease in smokers may make it look like we are doing a good job in curbing nicotine addiction, but we are just shifting the problem."

"All these new nicotine addicted vapers will then have no choice but to swap to cigarettes if and when a vape ban is finally announced," he said.

WHO estimates that there are over four million tobacco users in Malaysia.

Another WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic 2023 said Malaysia was among six countries that have strengthened their smoking laws.

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Estimated tobacco use trends for those aged 15 and above in Malaysia (%)

Source: World Health Organisation



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Lukanisman added that existing data involving smoking products, including vapes showed 46 cases were related to e-cigarette and vaping product use-associated lung injury (Evali) cases.

Health Ministry moots 10-fold hike to vape tax

THE Health Ministry has proposed increasing the tax on vape liquids from 40 sen per millilitre to RM4 in a bid to reduce consumption ahead of a nationwide ban.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Lukanisman Awang Sauni told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday that the proposal was submitted to the Finance Ministry and is awaiting feedback.

He was responding to Datuk Wan Saiful Wan Jan (Bersatu-Tasek Gelugor), who asked why vape products, particularly those containing nicotine, are not taxed at the same rate as cigarettes.

Lukanisman said the plan involves an initial ban on open-system vape devices, to be followed by a gradual phasing out of all vape-related products.

Wan Saiful asked: "Can the Health Ministry guarantee that by Budget Day, the tax on nicotine in vapes will be equal to that of cigarettes?"

"There's a huge price gap — vapes are cheaper, so people resort to buying them. There's no floor price (as with cigarettes), so again, people choose vapes. Can the government tax them at the same rate as cigarettes?"

Lukanisman added that the Health Ministry would also submit a cabinet memorandum seeking approval for a complete ban on the use of electronic cigarettes and vapes this year.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad had said the government would ban vapes in stages, beginning with open-system devices before all vape products are barred.

Obesity: a serious health issue

NST 8/10/2025 MS/2

There is more to it than meets the eye

WHO would have thought obesity is a disease? The closest some have come to treating it as a disease is to think of obesity as a condition leading to diseases like diabetes, hypertension and other non-communicable ailments. But most Malaysians fault the obese, blaming them for the choices they make about food. For sure, diet is an important part of the obesity equation as it is for all other diseases, thereby isolating them from seeking treatment. Endocrinologists and other medical specialists are saying how wrong we have been. And this wrong way of seeing obesity is contributing to the disease becoming a pressing public health crisis for the country. If alarm is needed to curb the obesity crisis from getting worse, go no further than the 2023 National Health and Morbidity Survey: 21.3 per cent of Malaysian adults were obese. If the past is any guide — it was 19.7 per cent in 2019 — the number is set to rise.

It is time we changed the way of looking at obesity. According to Malaysian Obesity Society president and Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah, Universiti Teknologi Mara consultant endocrinologist Professor Dr Rohana Abdul Ghani, who spoke to this newspaper's *Life & Times*, obesity is a chronic and relapsing disease. Like any other disease, it has symptoms like hunger pangs. To her, obesity has a cause: it is a condition of excess fatty tissue. "For someone to view obesity purely as a lifestyle choice or a moral failure, or just poor decisions around food and physical activity is a misunderstanding," is Dr Rohana's take on

It is time we changed the way of looking at obesity.

Malaysians' view. Diving deeper, those who are treating obesity are encountering the complex interplay of genetic and environmental factors in causing the disease. Hormones, too, are being isolated for attention. In short, Malaysians' change of diet and lifestyle narrative to one that treats obesity as a disease would go a long way in curbing it.

Fortunately, obesity is a treatable disease. Options to treat it, too, have increased over the last decade. But the problem is that the obese, for either financial or other reasons, opt for self-treatment. This rarely works because they do not recognise it as a disease. When they succumb to obesity symptoms like hunger pangs, they consider it a personal failure. This only extends the vicious cycle. Today, medications and surgical interventions are on offer, though the latter is not for all. Those who are afflicted must be advised to seek proper medical treatment. Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad has rightly described the sharp rise in obese Malaysians as a wake-up call for collective action. There is both a human and economic toll to this. Medical evidence points to the obese facing a much higher risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke and cancer, which together account for 70 per cent of all deaths in Malaysia. Add to this the immense economic impact on the country: RM64 billion annually through healthcare spending, productivity losses and mortality. We are glad that the Health Ministry is establishing integrated clinical obesity management at primary healthcare level at 10 public health clinics. What remains is for the loved ones to get them to seek treatment.

Health Ministry moves towards total vape ban

➤ 'Purchase, use of smoking products by minors prohibited since October'

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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PETALING JAYA: The Health Ministry is moving towards a total ban on electronic cigarettes and vapes, with a proposal expected to be presented to the Cabinet soon for policy approval.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Lukanisman Awang Sauni said the ministry has enforced a ban on the purchase and use of smoking products, including vapes, by minors under the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 (Act 852), which also prohibits online sales.

He added that nicotine remains regulated under the Poisons Act 1952, but electronic cigarette liquids now fall under Act 852, which takes effect this month.

"All smoking products, including vapes, must be registered with the ministry under Section 3 of the Act before import,

manufacture or distribution, while online sales are prohibited under Section 10, with offenders facing fines, imprisonment or both," he told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

In terms of revenue, Lukanisman said the vape tax collection in 2024 amounted to RM111 million but the estimated cost of treating diseases related to e-cigarettes or vaping, including product use-associated lung injury, reached RM223 million and is expected to rise, showing that the healthcare burden outweighs fiscal benefits.

"The Health Ministry acknowledges the challenges the country may face, such as the risk of smuggling and the black market, should a total ban be implemented.

"Therefore, any move towards prohibition would be accompanied by comprehensive mitigation strategies, including integrated enforcement involving multiple ministries and agencies, local authorities and others, in addition to strengthening manpower resources."

He also said the prohibition approach would be implemented in stages, with enforcement, education and community support as key components.

The role of NGOs and communities would also be mobilised to reduce demand and encourage behavioural change.

"However, legislation alone is not sufficient, as protecting public health requires the involvement of all parties. As such, community participation is crucial in this effort," he said, adding that the public is encouraged to lodge complaints regarding violations of smoking product laws via WhatsApp at 010-860 8949 or the website at www.jomLapor.com.

Lukanisman said such an approach not only strengthens enforcement but also mobilises all Malaysians to work together towards achieving a smoke-free nation by 2040.

He added that under the "Whole of Nation Approach," the ministry launched Operation Safe Lungs on Aug 1, with enforcement carried out jointly with the Customs Department, the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry, police, local authorities and other agencies, to enforce strict control over vape distribution, sales and compliance.

"In addition, prevention and education programmes such as *Kesihatan Oral Tanpa Amalan Merokok*, *JomSihat*, *Doktor Muda* and *Back to Cinema* have been implemented to provide early exposure to children and teenagers about the dangers of smoking products, instil positive attitudes and to prevent them from taking up smoking or vaping."

Cadang naik cukai vape 10 kali ganda

Daripada 40 sen kepada RM4 bagi setiap mililiter

Oleh **RAIHAM MOHD SANUSI**
KUALA LUMPUR

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menyarankan kenaikan cukai cecair rokok elektronik atau vape sebanyak 10 kali ganda iaitu daripada 40 sen kepada RM4 bagi setiap mililiter (ml).

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Lukanisman Awang Sauni berkata, cadangan itu telah dikemukakan kepada Kementerian Kewangan (MoF) untuk dimasukkan dalam Belanjawan 2026 seterusnya bagi menyelaraskan kadar cukai produk vape dengan produk tembakau konvensional.

"Saya ingin berkongsi maklumat mengenai ringkasan penyelarasan produk merokok. Satu batang rokok bersamaan 10 sedutan, satu kotak rokok 200 sedutan setiap kotak, 1ml cecair vape bersamaan 100 sedutan.

"Kadar cukai yang dicadangkan pada cukai cecair vape dari 40 sen ke RM4 setiap ml, cadangan daripada pihak KKM agar dapat diterima pihak MoF," katanya pada sesi Pertanyaan-Pertanyaan Bagi Jawab Lisan di Dewan Rakyat pada Selasa.

Beliau berkata demikian menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Wan Saiful Wan Jan (PN-Tasek Gelugor)

mengenai jaminan kerajaan agar kadar cukai ke atas cecair nikotin dalam vape diselaraskan dengan cukai rokok dalam Belanjawan 2026.

Sementara itu, Lukanisman juga mengulangi pendirian bahawa Kementerian sedang bergerak ke arah larangan menyeluruh terhadap penggunaan vape dengan

cadangan itu dijangka dibentangkan kepada Jemaah Menteri tahun ini.

"Ia kerana dianggarkan sebanyak RM244.8 juta dibelanjakan setakat ini untuk merawat penyakit *E-Cigarette or Vaping Product Use-Associated Lung Injury* (EVALI) yang berpunca akibat penggunaan vape berdasarkan

Analisis Kesan Peraturan (RIA) dilaksanakan KKM sebelum ini.

"Sekiranya berterusan, kita terpaksa berbelanja lebih RM300 juta atau RM400 juta menjelang 2030. Sebab ini saya berikan jawapan kita akan mengemukakan memorandum Jemaah Menteri kepada Kabinet.

"Ia bertujuan mempertimbangkan pengharaman sepenuhnya dan untuk mendapatkan dasar memulakan tindakan pengharaman vape. Daripada kita berperang dengan rokok dan vape, lebih baik kita hapuskannya," katanya.



LUKANISMAN



Jenis Vape	
Jenis vape	Kapasiti
Sistem pod tertutup	0.7ml hingga 3ml
Sistem pod terbuka	1ml hingga >5ml

KANDUNGAN NIKOTIN

Mulai 1 Oktober 2025 had maksimum kepekatan nikotin bagi produk vape ialah 20 mg/ml (2 peratus) di bawah peraturan Peraturan-Peraturan Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam (Pembungkusan dan Pelabelan) 2024.

HARGA SEMASA CECAIR VAPE

Pakai buang: RM33

Isian semula:
30ml - RM45
60ml - RM60

JANGKAAN HARGA

- Sebelum dikenakan cukai 40 sen (2023) kenalkan antara RM10 hingga RM15
- Selepas cukai dinaikkan kepada RM4, kenalkan antara RM100 hingga RM150

PeKa B40 bantu cakna kesihatan

Program kesan awal penyakit, tingkat peluang jalani rawatan dan pemulihan

Oleh Ercy Gracella Ajos
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Kuala Lumpur: Program saringan kesihatan percuma menerusi inisiatif Peduli Kesihatan untuk Kumpulan B40 (PeKa B40) terbukti berhasil membantu mengesan penyakit pada peringkat awal, sekali gus meningkatkan peluang rawatan dan pemulihan pesakit.

Pengalaman itu dikongsi penerima manfaat PeKa B40, Sarimah Noordin, 60, yang menjalani saringan awal di sebuah klinik swasta di Sentul dan membawa kepada pengesanan awal penyakit dihidapinya.

Sebelum itu, beliau melakukan saringan kesihatan besar-besaran di kawasan perumahan anjuran sebuah klinik menerusi inisiatif tanggungjawab sosial korporat (CSR).



"Selepas buat saringan termasuk ujian darah, saya diminta merujuk ke klinik berkenaan yang terletak berhampiran rumah saya.

"Selepas menjalani saringan, baru saya dapat tahu ada penyakit darah tinggi," katanya.

Selepas menjalani ujian kesihatan secara percuma itu, beliau diminta hadir semula ke klinik untuk menjalani pemeriksaan lanjut dan rawatan susulan.

"Saya pun ikutlah sebab dengar ada penyakit, memanglah risau. Alhamdulillah, kesihatan saya semakin baik. Kalau bukan kerana saringan awal, mungkin sekarang saya terpaksa bertongkat," katanya.

Beliau turut melahirkan kesyukuran

kerana kesihatannya kini semakin pulih hasil rawatan diterima secara konsisten.

Katanya, usia lanjut memerlukan golongan seperti beliau lebih peka dengan keperluan melakukan pemeriksaan kesihatan



Sarimah Noordin



Tiam Lye dapatkan pemeriksaan kesihatan menerusi PeKa B40 di Klinik Ikram Sentul.

(Foto Asyraf Hamzah/BH)

bagi mengesan penyakit dari awal.

Inisiatif sangat dihargai

PeKa B40 ialah inisiatif kerajaan melalui Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), bertujuan menampung keperluan kesihatan golongan berpendapatan rendah dengan memberi fokus terhadap penyakit tidak berjangkit (NCD).

Golongan yang layak ialah penerima sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR) berusia 40 tahun dan ke atas dan pasangan yang berdaftar.

Sarimah berkata, pendekatan kerajaan menyediakan perkhid-

matan kesihatan percuma menerusi PeKa B40 amat dihargai golongan sasar yang ada kalanya memandang mudah aspek penjagaan kesihatan.

"Kalau nak buat saringan di klinik swasta, memang mahal dan saya bukan golongan mampu. Kalau pergi ke hospital kerajaan, kadang-kadang masa menunggu lama sebab ramai.

"Apabila kerajaan buat program PeKa B40, orang seperti saya boleh ke klinik swasta untuk melakukan saringan tanpa bayaran, maka tiada alasan lagi untuk kita abaikan penjagaan kesihatan," katanya.

Seorang lagi penerima manfaat PeKa B40, Liam Tiam Lye, 50, berkata PeKa B40 banyak membantunya dalam mengetahui tahap kesihatan sendiri.

"Sebelum ini saya tidak tahu wujudnya saringan kesihatan secara percuma. Selepas dimaklumkan, saya gunakan kemudahan PeKa B40 dan dapat mengetahui tahap kesihatan, termasuk bacaan darah serta paras gula.

"Inisiatif ini sangat membantu dan memberi kesedaran pentingnya ujian saringan awal. Sebagai penerima manfaat, saya harap inisiatif ini diteruskan kerajaan sampai bila-bila," katanya.

Kos rawatan penyakit berkaitan vape dijangka cecah RM400 juta

Kesan kecederaan paru-paru akibat penggunaan rokok elektronik beri kesan kesihatan serius

Oleh Muhammad Yusri Muzamir dan Oleh Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
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Kuala Lumpur: Lebih RM300 juta hingga RM400 juta dianggar terpaksa dibelanjakan untuk merawat penyakit berkaitan EVALI (*E-Cigarette or Vaping Product Use-Associated Lung Injury*) berpunca daripada rokok elektronik, termasuk vape menjelang 2030.

Penyakit EVALI ialah kecederaan paru-paru susulan penggunaan rokok elektronik atau produk vape dengan gejala seperti batuk, sesak nafas, demam dan sakit dada yang berlaku apabila bahan kimia dalam cecair vape menjadi panas dan menghasilkan bahan merosakkan lapisan paru-paru.

Jangkaan itu dikongsi Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Lukanisman Awang Sauni, dengan anggaran RM244.8 juta sudah dibelanjakan untuk merawat penyakit sama, setakat ini.

Beliau berkata, angka itu dikenal pasti melalui Analisis Kesan Peraturan (RIA) yang dilak-



sanakan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sebelum ini.

"Sekiranya berterusan, kita terpaksa berbelanja lebih RM300 juta atau RM400 juta menjelang 2030. Justeru, kerana enggan melakukan pembaziran bagi penyakit akibat vape, sebab ini saya berikan jawapan kita akan mengemukakan Memorandum Jemaah Menteri kepada Kabinet.

"Ia bertujuan mempertimbangkan pengharaman sepenuhnya dan untuk mendapatkan dasar memulakan tindakan pengharaman vape," katanya pada sesi lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Dr Zulkafperi Hanapi (BEBAS-Tanjong Karang) mengenai kelewatan KKM sebagai agensi utama menjaga kesihatan awam melaksanakan pengharaman penuh rokok elektronik.

Strategi mitigasi menyeluruh

Sementara itu, Lukanisman ketika menjawab soalan R. Yuneswaran (PH-Segamat) berkata, KKM maklum mengenai cabaran dihadapi negara seperti risiko penyeludupan dan pasaran gelap jika pengharaman sepenuhnya ro-



Lukanisman pada sesi pertanyaan lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

kok elektronik dilaksanakan.

Sehubungan itu, beliau berkata, sebarang langkah ke arah pengharaman akan disertai strategi mitigasi menyeluruh, termasuk penguatkuasaan bersepadu membabitkan pelbagai kementerian dan agensi lain termasuk Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia, Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) serta pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT).

"Dari segi hasil, kutipan cukai vape bernilai RM111 juta, pada 2024, namun anggaran kos rawatan penyakit berkaitan vape, termasuk EVALI mencecah RM223 juta tahun lalu dan dijangka terus meningkat.

"Ini menunjukkan beban kos kesihatan jauh melebihi manfaat fiskal. Justeru, pengharaman

akan dilaksanakan secara berperingkat dengan penguatkuasaan, pendidikan dan sokongan masyarakat sebagai komponen penting," katanya.

Lukanisman berkata, KKM sudah mengemukakan cadangan menaikkan kadar cukai ke atas cecair nikotin vape membabitkan nilai 10 kali ganda berbanding kadar sedia ada.

Beliau berkata, cadangan itu sudah dikemukakan kepada Kementerian Kewangan (MOF) untuk dimasukkan dalam Belanjaan 2026.

Katanya, ini menjadikan kadar cukai untuk cecair vape dicadangkan untuk dinaikkan daripada 40 sen kepada RM4 per mililiter (ml) nikotin.

"Saya ingin berkongsi maklumat mengenai ringkasan penyelesaian produk merokok. Se-

batang rokok bersamaan 10 sedutan, manakala sekotak rokok bersamaan 200 sedutan. Bagi 1ml cecair (nikotin) vape pula bersamaan 100 sedutan dan 2ml adalah 200 sedutan.

"Kadar cukai dicadangkan untuk cecair vape daripada 40 sen kepada RM4 per ml. Ini adalah cadangan KKM supaya dapat diterima oleh MOF," katanya.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Wan Saiful Wan Jan (PN-Tasek Gelugor) mengenai tindakan kawalan segera KKM sementara menuju ke arah pengharaman sepenuhnya rokok elektronik atau vape.

Sementara itu, Lukanisman berkata, KKM memiliki data terkini laporan penyakit dikaitkan dengan penggunaan produk merokok, termasuk vape.

Setakat ini, 46 kes EVALI membabitkan komplikasi serius dengan kesan serius kepada paru-paru direkodkan, manakala 45 kes lagi bukan EVALI membabitkan komplikasi kesihatan lain yang juga berpunca akibat vape.

Beliau berkata, KKM bagaimanapun tidak memiliki data terperinci ketika ini memandangkan penyakit berkaitan vape masih dalam peringkat kajian.

"Sebab ini, sebelum kita terdedah dengan kes lebih tinggi, lebih baik kita terus menjurus kepada pengharaman sepenuhnya vape seperti (dilakukan) negara ASEAN lain, antaranya Brunei, Laos dan Singapura," katanya menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Shamshulkahar Mohd Deli (BN-Jempol).

Naik 900 peratus!

Syor cukai cecair vape dinaik daripada 40 sen kepada RM4 per ml

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Kuala Lumpur

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) sudah mengemukakan cadangan menaikkan kadar cukai ke atas cecair nikotin rokok elektronik atau vape membabitkan nilai 10 kali ganda berbanding kadar sedia ada.

Timbalan Menteri, Datuk Lukanisman Awang Sauni, berkata, cadangan berkenaan sudah pun dikemukakan kepada Kementerian Kewangan (MoF) untuk dimasukkan dalam Belanjawan 2026.

Beliau berkata, ini menjadikan kadar cukai untuk cecair vape dicadangkan untuk dinaikkan daripada 40 sen kepada RM4 per mililiter (ml) nikotin.

"Saya ingin berkongsi maklumat mengenai ringkasan penyelarasan produk merokok. Sebatang rokok bersamaan 10 sedutan, manakala sekotak rokok bersamaan 200 sedutan.

"Bagi 1ml cecair (niko-



LUKANISMAN ketika sesi pertanyaan bagi jawab lisan pada Mesyuarat Ketiga Penggal Ketiga, Majlis Parlimen ke-15 Dewan Rakyat di Bangunan Parlimen, semalam.

tin) vape pula bersamaan 100 sedutan dan 2ml adalah 200 sedutan.

"Kadar cukai dicadangkan untuk cecair vape daripada 40 sen kepada RM4 per ml. Ini adalah cadangan KKM agar dapat diterima oleh MoF," katanya pada sesi lisan di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan **Datuk Wan Saiful Wan Jan (PN-Tasek**

Gelugor) mengenai tindakan kawalan segera KKM, sementara menuju ke arah pengharaman sepenuhnya rokok elektronik atau vape.

Sementara itu, Lukanisman berkata, KKM memiliki data terkini mengenai laporan penyakit dikaitkan dengan penggunaan produk merokok, termasuk rokok elektronik atau vape.

Setakat ini, katanya, 46 kes EVALI membabitkan komplikasi serius dengan kesan serius kepada paru-paru direkodkan, manakala 45 kes lagi bukan EVALI membabitkan komplikasi kesihatan lain yang juga berpunca akibat vape.

Beliau berkata, KKM bagaimanapun tidak memiliki data terperinci ketika ini memandangkan penyakit berkaitan vape masih dalam peringkat kajian.

"Sebab ini, sebelum kita terdedah dengan kes lebih tinggi, lebih baik kita terus menjurus kepada pengharaman sepenuhnya vape seperti (dilakukan) negara ASEAN lain, antaranya Brunei, Laos dan Singapura.

"Kini, terdapat 37 negara yang sudah mengambil keputusan mengharamkan vape dan ini memberi kesan baik.

"Lebih baik kita mengharamkan salah satu mudarat yang ada ketika ini, berbanding berperang dengan rokok dan vape," katanya menjawab soalan tambahan **Datuk Shams-hulkahar Mohd Deli (BN-Jempol)**.

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) akan mengemukakan Memorandum Jemaah Menteri bagi pengharaman sepenuhnya penggunaan rokok elektronik atau vape kepada Kabinet, tahun ini.

Tanpa memperincikan jangkaan memorandum itu dibentangkan, **Timbalan Menterinya, Datuk Lukanisman Awang Sau-ni**, berkata ia bertujuan untuk membolehkan KKM mendapat persetujuan dasar bagi pelaksanaan pengharaman penuh vape di negara ini.

Beliau yang juga Ahli Parlimen Sibuti berharap cadangan itu bakal menerima sokongan daripada anggota Dewan Rakyat demi menjamin masa depan kesihatan golongan muda di negara ini.

"Sememangnya KKM bertanggungjawab dan mengetahui senario semasa mengenai desakan ibu bapa, media, pemimpin setempat dan Ahli Parlimen (bagi pengharaman sepenuhnya vape).

KKM setuju naik cukai vape sebelum pengharaman penuh

"Kita pernah berusaha menggubal peruntukan Generasi Penamat Rokok (GEG) sebelum ini, tetapi Ahli Parlimen mempunyai pendapat berbelah bahagi mengenai pengharaman keseluruhan berkenaan vape.

"Maka terjadilah Akta 852 (Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024) dan kita ingin menggunakan akta ini untuk secara konsisten melakukan penguatkuasaan dengan lebih tegas," katanya pada sesi lisan di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan **Datuk Dr Zulkafperi Hanapi (BE-BAS-Tanjong Karang)**

mengenai kelewatan KKM sebagai agensi utama menjaga kesihatan awam melaksanakan pengharaman penuh terhadap rokok elektronik.

Menjawab soalan asal, Lukanisman berkata, nikotin secara dasarnya masih dikawal di bawah Akta Racun 1952 dengan pengecualian sebelum ini, membabitkan penyediaan cecair atau gel mengandungi nikotin untuk tujuan merokok.

Beliau berkata, cecair rokok elektronik kini dikawal di bawah Akta 852, merangkumi pendaftaran, pengiklanan, penjualan, pembungkusan, pelabelan, kawalan harga dan pengilangan semua pro-

duk merokok termasuk cecair rokok elektronik atau vape.

Mengikut Seksyen 3 Akta 852, katanya, semua produk merokok termasuk rokok elektronik atau vape mesti didaftarkan dengan KKM sebelum diimport, dikilang atau diedarkan dengan kegagalan berbuat demikian adalah kesalahan yang boleh dikenakan denda, penjara atau kedua-duanya.

"Bagi mengekang penyalahgunaan vape dalam kalangan kanak-kanak, KKM menguatkuasakan larangan pembelian dan penggunaan produk merokok orang belum dewasa melalui Seksyen 13(3) dan 17 Akta 852.

"Penjualan dalam talian juga dilarang di bawah Seksyen 10 akta sama dan boleh dikenakan hukuman, jika disabitkan kesalahan," katanya.

“Berharap cadangan bakal menerima sokongan daripada anggota Dewan Rakyat Lukanisman”

Budget 2026 a chance to catalyse health and safety issues

It is imperative to prioritise the well-being of our workforce by empowering the private sector to embrace occupational safety, health and mental wellness as core pillars of productivity and sustainability.

The post-pandemic landscape has underscored the urgent need for resilient workplaces that safeguard both physical and psychological health. Budget 2026 presents a timely opportunity to catalyse this transformation through targeted fiscal measures and policy support.

To encourage dynamic investment in workplace safety and mental health, the following tax incentives should be considered:

- > Accelerated capital allowance (ACA) for companies investing in ergonomic equipment, safety systems and mental health infrastructure such as quiet rooms, wellness pods or digital therapy platforms;

- > Double tax deduction for expenses related to certified occupational safety and health (OSH) training programmes, mental health awareness campaigns, employee assistance programmes (EAPs) and hiring of certified OSH officers or workplace counsellors;

- > Reduction of import duty on purchase of personal protective equipment not available in the country;

- > Special relief for small and medium enterprises that implement basic OSH standards or mental health support mechanisms, and

- > Tax deductions for companies that offer annual health screenings, stress assessments or burnout prevention programmes.

Complementary initiatives to embed a culture of safety and wellness could also be introduced, including

- > Matching grants for companies adopting internationally recognised OSH certifications (for example ISO 45001) or mental health frameworks;

- > Public-private partnerships to co-develop training modules, toolkits and digital platforms for mental health literacy and hazard prevention; and

- > Mandatory reporting and benchmarking to encourage voluntary disclosure of OSH and mental health metrics. Incentives could be given to top-performing companies.

By incentivising the private sector to lead in this space, we not only protect lives, we also unlock higher engagement, lower absenteeism and strengthen economic resilience.

TAN SRI LEE LAM THYE
Chairman
Alliance For a Safe
Community

Living and thriving

How one breast cancer survivor empowers other patients while improving her own well-being.

Stories by SYDIA LIZTA
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Dr. Aesha Asmadi was 21 when she was first diagnosed with breast cancer.

She was a medical student undergoing her surgical posting when one day, during a breast self-examination, she found a tiny, painless lump on her left breast.

As a medical student, she knew exactly what to do. "I understood that all lumps needed to be investigated with a clinical examination, imaging and tissue biopsy," she said. She did all three and found that she had stage two triple-negative breast cancer. What followed was a harrowing chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

"I was very young then," says Dr. Aesha, who is now 41. "So of course I was shocked and surprised. I was an active person. I did martial arts and cardio exercises but I was living a high-stress life. My idea of relaxation was binge-watching TV shows or movies," she says.

For the next five years, Dr. Aesha invested her conditions, and things were looking good until one day just when she was about to celebrate her fifth year of being a resident, another tiny lump appeared, this time on her right breast.

Her doctor told her that this new lump was unrelated to the earlier one, and she caught the cancer at stage two. Still, she was disappointed.

"I thought I had done all I could to prevent a recurrence, but it happened again. Even

though I knew what to expect when it comes to treatment, I was still angry," she says.

She was a medical doctor then, working in an emergency department.

"I asked myself, 'What didn't I learn from the last episode?'" she says.

Pivoted dream

She thought long and hard about her life and cancer diagnosis and decided that maybe, she needs to pivot her dreams and prioritise her health and well-being.

"Maybe pursuing my dream was not in the best interest of my health," she says.

"Cancer can be sporadic. We understand risk factors but we don't understand direct cause, which varies from one person to another," she says.

That pivot brought her to learn about medical fitness and exercise prescription, to make exercise protocols based on a person's medical condition.

But before that, she had another decision to make - whether or not to do a double mastectomy, given that she has been diagnosed with breast cancer twice. She decided to do it as a preventive measure, but that didn't come without its own emotional toll.

"I saw a psychiatrist to start my grieving cycle, as when the time came, I would not feel so down. I believe that her's mental and physical health have to be aligned if we want to be healthy and happy," she says.

Dr. Aesha did her postgraduate

training in Sports Medicine in Liverpool, Malaysia and is a certified exercise prescriber by the Society of Exercise Medicine Malaysia.

She also leads The Cancer Survivor Programme to empower patients post-treatment with medically supervised exercise coaching.

Her achievements in athletics sports include Fit Angel Classic Champion (2017) and first runner-up for Miss Universe National Amateur Bodybuilder's Association (Clubbed) in 2013. In 2014, she was also awarded Best Achievement Award Overall Bodybuilding Athlete by the Youth and Sports Ministry.



Dr. Aesha (right) and Aze Canning Corporation head of nutrition and dietitian, Tan Sze Yee at the launch of the 'Stop That Dot Together' campaign - HsiyA@theon

Treatment and support

Dr. Aesha says while it may be hard, women should not panic when they receive a breast cancer diagnosis.

"New treatments are advanced and modern, and even side effects now are considerably less than when I underwent treatment. There's always hope, but get yourself screened early so any intervention can start during the early stage of the disease," she says.

"New patients should also get the right support. There are a lot of 'predators' who will prey on your vulnerability and offer

'supplements' that they say work. Don't go there. Trust your doctor and communicate with him or her so you get a clearer idea of your treatment and the disease," she says.

She admits that battling breast cancer makes one vulnerable and overwhelmed, and support is supremely important in the journey.

"Cancer disrupts everything - your life, your relationships and your routine. Be prepared to see that cancer may reveal who your real support system is. You will see who meets your needs and who doesn't. It can be an eye-opening journey and a discovery, good and bad," she says.

"I think some of the most useful things that people can do for a cancer patient is to help them with routine tasks, trips to the hospital, laundry, house cleaning and food. If those loads are taken away, we feel so much lighter and better," she says.

New patients should also make new friends and strike a conversation with other patients whom they go for treatment.

"Human connections have a positive impact on your life and outlook. And you'll never know when you will meet someone who shares your struggles," she adds.

For Dr. Aesha, her current job - to support others through their recovery via exercise - is rewarding.

"It feels great to be able to help others," she says. "Maybe I'm not fit to work in a hospital or any other high-stress environment."

Cancer can be sporadic. We understand risk factors but we don't understand direct cause, which varies from one person to another.

Dr. Aesha Asmadi

Reason to screen

presentation of breast cancer. Consultant breast and endocrine surgeon Dr Nural Harlina Md Luter emphasises that breast screening is not about fear, but empowerment.

"We want to give women the confidence to get screened, knowing that these tools are powerful, designed for their health and well-being," she said.

Dr Nural Harlina was speaking at the launch of Homesoy's 'Stop That Dot Together' campaign, held in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, to encourage more women to go for screening.

The campaign wants to turn screening into an act of care, and it encourages women to get screened with other women -

mothers, sisters, friends, daughters - to make it less intimidating.

"We want Malaysians to get screened together and embrace good nutrition as the foundation for long-term wellness," says Aze Canning Corporation marketing director Chung Wan Ping.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Malaysian women, with the World Health Organisation (WHO) reporting that one in 20 women will develop it in their lifetime.

According to the Malaysia National Cancer Registry 2017-2021, more than half of cases (50.1%) are detected late, at stage three or four, which limits treatment options and survival.

Cancer Research Malaysia post-doctoral scientist Dr Ang Boon Heng adds: "We can't change our genes, but we can change our habits - like keeping a good weight, staying active, staying smoke-free and getting checked."

WHILE most people know breast cancer screening helps detect the disease when it is at an early stage and easier to treat, many don't go for one.

A nationwide 2023 survey revealed that seven in 10 women believe screening is only needed when symptoms appear and many avoid checks due to fear or the clinical hospital environment.

It says Malaysia continues to face low breast cancer screening rates and patterns with delayed

TS 8/10/2025 MS/8

More control measures needed to curb nicotine addiction

PETALING JAYA: The Health Ministry's proposal to raise vape liquids excise duty by 1,000% is a bold step to curb nicotine addiction; however, it must come with stricter enforcement and control measures to be effective, say anti-vaping advocates.

Consumers Association of Penang senior education officer NV Subbarow said the proposed tax hike could send a strong message to both vapers and parents who enable the bad habit.

He said many parents still give money to their children despite knowing it will be spent on vape products, and the proposed tax hike could serve as a lesson.

Subbarow added that the government should emulate countries where continued sharp price increases and firm enforcement have successfully reduced tobacco and vape use.

"Some people may argue that the higher tax will lead to smuggling, but the solution is not to back down; it's to give more power to the authorities.

"Increasing fines and jail sentences with strong enforcement can help reduce illegal sales and vaping among youth," he said.

Malaysian Council for Tobacco Control secretary-general Muhammad Sha'ani Abdullah said the measure could significantly reduce casual and experimental use among young people.

"The tax hike is a strong tool, but to achieve a large and sustained reduction in youth vape use, we need more levers as part of a comprehensive strategy.

"This should include stricter flavour restrictions, minimum pricing, strong enforcement of age limits, and marketing or advertising restrictions," he said.

Muhammad Sha'ani added that these restrictions must also be paired with complementary measures such as data collection and research on youth nicotine product prevalence, health effects and behavioural trends.

Malaysian Council for Tobacco Control president Assoc Prof Dr M. Murallitharan said the increased tax policy must be balanced between cigarettes and vaping products to avoid creating a price gap that encourages nicotine users to switch between the two.

"In the past, the vape tax was disproportionately low compared to the cigarette tax, which made vaping the cheaper option, which is why we saw a rapid rise in vape use – especially among young people. This might happen again in reverse if the tobacco product tax is not raised proportionally with the vape product tax to discourage people from trying out either nicotine product," he said.

He said that while increasing the vape tax would help correct the imbalance, policymakers must anticipate public reaction and communicate the rationale clearly.

"Ultimately, the focus should be on reducing nicotine use overall, regardless of the delivery mechanism," he added.

