



JOINT STATEMENT • 4 APRIL 2023

### **Malaysia needs Clear Laws on Vaping before any Taxation**

The Malaysian Health Coalition is extremely concerned and disappointed with the decision to collect excise taxes on nicotine liquids and gel used in e-cigarettes and vaping devices beginning 1 April 2023. This decision was announced on 31 March 2023 in the Federal Gazette.

We note current Malaysian laws do not explicitly allow or explicitly ban e-cigarettes or vaping devices. Therefore, e-cigarettes and vaping devices exist in a legal “no-man’s land”, without any regulations to govern their use or reduce their harm to vulnerable populations like children or teenagers.

In order for this excise tax to be legally possible, the Health Minister had to exempt nicotine liquids and gels from the Poisons Act 1952 (also announced on 31 March 2023). We regret that this exemption was administratively necessary because there is a glaring absence of a decision on whether vaping should be allowed or banned in Malaysia, or how vaping should be regulated.

We are deeply concerned about the public health implications of vaping and tobacco use, especially in children and teenagers. We support the Generational End Game and we favour an outright ban on vaping. Strict regulations will bring Malaysia in line with increasingly prevalent international norms. Countries that partially or completely ban vaping include Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand and many states in the United States.

We urge the Government to delay the implementation of the excise tax collection and the removal of nicotine from the Poisons List until the Tobacco Regulations & Control Bill is passed, and to debate and decide on the legal status of vaping in Malaysia as part of the Bill. We further urge the Government to impose gradually stricter regulations on tobacco as a whole, with an ambition to achieve a Zero Smoking Nation. No amount of taxes collected is worth the health of Malaysians, the health of our children, and the health of our health system.

**BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA.**

**Malaysian Health Coalition** (Full Signature List on [myhealthcoalition.org](https://myhealthcoalition.org))

4 April 2023

**Full signature list:****Organisations**

1. Academy of Medicine Malaysia
2. Association of Malaysian Optometrists
3. Asthma Malaysia
4. College of Anaesthesiologists
5. College of Ophthalmologists
6. Dermatological Society of Malaysia
7. IKRAM Health Malaysia
8. Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia
9. Lung Cancer Network of Malaysia
10. Malaysian Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology
11. Malaysian Association of Clinical Biochemists
12. Malaysian Association of Dental Public Health Specialists
13. Malaysian Association of Environmental Health
14. Malaysian Coalition of Ageing
15. Malaysian Dental Association
16. Malaysian Family Medicine Specialists' Association
17. Malaysian Medical Association
18. Malaysian Paediatric Association
19. Malaysian Pharmacists Society
20. Malaysian Society of Anaesthesiologists
21. Malaysian Society of Clinical Psychology
22. Malaysian Society of Geriatric Medicine
23. Malaysian Society of Ophthalmology
24. Malaysian Thoracic Society
25. Medical Mythbusters Malaysia
26. Medical Practitioners Coalition Association of Malaysia
27. MedTweetMy
28. Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia
29. Public Health Malaysia

**Individuals**

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3. Dato' Dr Jahizah Hassan
4. Dr Khor Swee Kheng
5. Dr Manoharan Shunmugam
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10. Prof Dr GR Letchuman Ramanathan
11. Prof Dr Mohd Zamrin Dimon
12. Prof Dr Roslina Abdul Manap
13. Prof Dr Sanjay Rampal
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