

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATION

THE STAR MSLU NATION 14/2/2025 (JUMAAT)

'Do better by healthcare workers'

By WANI MUTHIAH
wani@thestar.com.my

KLANG: Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah has urged the Health Ministry and the Selangor Health Department to seriously address the issue of overworked healthcare staff in the state.

"Recently, there have been complaints of healthcare staff, such as nurses and paramedics, being forced to work double shifts.

"This has led to an imbalance in their quality of life," said Sultan Sharafuddin in the Ruler's royal address at an event launching the Kajang Hospital's Women and Children Treatment Centre as well as renaming the hospital as Hospital Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin yesterday.

The Ruler said the ministry and its state department must ensure that healthcare personnel are distributed fairly and accordingly to all medical facilities for the matter to be addressed effectively.

"If the current staffing arrangement is insufficient, create new positions to meet the urgent

need," added Sultan Sharafuddin. The Sultan believed that the welfare of hospital staff would be taken care of if this was done.

Sultan Sharafuddin also directed the Health Ministry to consider building new hospitals or constructing additional blocks to existing hospitals in Selangor.

"I have been made to understand that the rate of bed usage in several main hospitals is high, with patients not being able to obtain beds upon admission in most of these hospitals," said Sultan Sharafuddin.

The Ruler also conveyed appreciation to the Health Ministry for building the Kapar Hospital for the benefit of Selangor residents.

"At the same time, I would like to recommend KKM (Health Ministry) to give special attention to the construction of the proposed Sepang Hospital.

"I am sure the construction of the Sepang Hospital is much needed and awaited by the people of Selangor, especially those in the Sepang district and surrounding areas, which are quickly growing to be at par with Petaling



Elevating public healthcare:

Sultan Sharafuddin (fourth from right) inspecting the hospital replica alongside Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin (third from right) after officiating the launch of its Women and Children Treatment Centre.
— Bernama

Jaya," said Sultan Sharafuddin.

The Ruler also said there is a shortage of health clinics throughout Selangor in comparison to the ratio of residents in the state.

Sultan Sharafuddin added that although there are many private clinics and hospitals in Selangor, most people are not able to afford them.

"Hence, I want the Health Ministry to consider building new government clinics in strategic locations as well as replacing old clinics.

"This is very important because only at government health facilities can people receive treatment and specialist care at a reasonable charge," said Sultan Sharafuddin.

The Ruler also hoped that efforts would be intensified to upgrade geriatric healthcare services as Malaysia is expected to become an ageing nation by 2035, where those aged 70 and above are projected to exceed 8% of the total population in Selangor.

According to Sultan Sharafuddin, the status of geriatric

healthcare services in Malaysia is still somewhat lagging compared to countries such as Japan and Singapore.

"I am of the opinion that geriatric units must be expanded and upgraded in several hospitals and health clinics and manned by appropriate specialists.

"A referral geriatrics hospital must be set up in Selangor to accommodate the increase in the number of senior citizens above the age of 70 here," said Sultan Sharafuddin.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 16
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Usaha transformasi sistem kesihatan digital menerusi HIS

Kuala Lumpur: Sistem Maklumat Hospital (HIS) berasaskan awan di fasiliti kesihatan seluruh negara siap sepenuhnya 2028.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Lukanisman Awang Sauni, berkata pelaksanaan HIS melalui sistem Rekod Perubatan Elektronik adalah langkah strategik Kementerian Kesihatan dalam menangani beban terlalu ramai pesakit di hospital dan meningkatkan kecekapan perkhidmatan rawatan.

"HIS adalah usaha kerajaan transformasi sistem kesihatan digital. Ia akan memudahkan perkongsian maklumat antara fasiliti kesihatan yang berbeza," katanya ketika Waktu Pertanyaan Menteri di Dewan Rakyat, di sini, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan Dr Mohammed Taufiq Johari (PH-Sungai Petani) sama ada Kementerian akan meningkatkan kapasiti hab kesihatan dan menggunakan teknologi seperti *tele-medicine* untuk menangani beban pesakit di hospital.

Menjawab soalan berhubung beban pesakit yang semakin meningkat di hospital kerajaan, Lukanisman berkata, antara inisiatif sedang dijalankan termasuklah hospital kluster untuk meningkatkan penyampaian perkhidmatan kepakaran kepada masyarakat luar bandar.

Katanya, turut dilaksanakan Hospital Services Outsourcing Program iaitu penyumbertuan pesakit dari hospital Kementerian Kesihatan ke Kemudahan Perkhidmatan Jagaan Kesihatan Swasta bagi mengurangkan masa menunggu pesakit untuk mendapatkan prosedur tertentu dalam perkhidmatan kardiologi, kardiotorasik, nefrologi dan radiologi.

"Projek kerjasama awam-swasta dilaksanakan bagi mengurangkan masa menunggu untuk perkhidmatan pembedahan.

"Perkhidmatan Nilai Tambah oleh unit farmasi dan Perkhidmatan Konsultasi secara Maya bagi mengurangkan kesesakan di klinik akan turut dilaksanakan," katanya.



Sultan Sharafuddin bersama Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin diiringi Dr Dzulkefly berkenan melihat replika hospital selepas merasmikan Pusat Rawatan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak serta penjenamaan semula Hospital Kajang kepada Hospital Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

Sultan Selangor titah bina hospital baharu

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 24
RUANGAN : NEGERI

SH m/s 24 NEGERI 14/2/2025 (JUMAAT)

Wanita tak mengaku bersalah buka klinik gigi haram

TEMERLOH - Seorang wanita mengaku tidak bersalah di Mahkamah Sesyen di sini pada Khamis atas tuduhan menyediakan klinik pergigian swasta yang tidak didaftarkan, tahun lalu.

Tertuduh, Intan Nazirah Rofi, 22, membuat pengakuan itu selepas kertas pertuduhan dibacakan di hadapan Hakim Jamaluddin Mat.

Berdasarkan pertuduhan, tertuduh didakwa menyediakan perkhidmatan klinik gigi swasta tanpa didaftarkan di bawah Seksyen 27, Akta Kemudahan dan Perkhidmatan Jagaan Kesihatan Swasta 1998 (Akta 586) di bilik hotel dekat Jerantut kira-kira jam 9.15 malam pada 14 Jun 2024.

Oleh itu, tertuduh didakwa melakukan kesalahan di bawah Seksyen 4 (1) Akta 586 dan boleh dihukum di bawah peruntukan Seksyen 5 (1) (a) akta yang sama.

Jika sabit kesalahan, tertuduh boleh didenda tidak lebih RM300,000 atau dipenjarakan tidak lebih enam tahun atau kedua-duanya.

Pendakwaan yang dikendalikan Pegawai Pendakwa Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), Haznita Zainal Abidin menawarkan jaminan sebanyak RM5,000 dengan seorang penjamin.

Tertuduh yang sedang mengandung tiga bulan merayu jaminan dikurangkan kerana tidak bekerja manakala suaminya pula tidak memiliki pendapatan tetap.

Mahkamah kemudian menetapkan tertuduh dijamin sebanyak RM1,000 dengan seorang penjamin dan menetapkan 17 April depan untuk serahan dokumen dan lantikan peguam.



**Tertuduh keluar dari Mahkamah Sesyen
Temerloh pada Khamis.**

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 16
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

BH M/S 16 NASIONAL 14/2/2025 (JUMAT)

KKM diminta tambah fasiliti selesai masalah kurang katil

Kajang: Sultan Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah menitahkan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) supaya mempertimbangkan pembinaan hospital baharu serta penambahbaikan fasiliti sedia ada bagi menyelesaikan masalah kekurangan katil di hospital utama di negeri itu.

Baginda bertitah, langkah berkenaan perlu diambil kerana kepenggunaan katil di beberapa hospital utama amat tinggi sehingga ada pesakit tiada katil apabila dimasukkan ke wad.

Sultan Sharafuddin menitahkan KKM untuk mempertimbangkan pembinaan lebih banyak klinik kerajaan baharu di kawasan yang strategik bagi membolehkan rakyat mendapat akses lebih luas kepada rawatan kesihatan yang dikenakan caj berpatutan.

"Beta dapati berlaku kekurangan fasiliti klinik kesihatan di seluruh Selangor berbanding dengan bilangan penduduk," titah baginda semasa menyam-

paikan titah ucapan pada majlis perasmian Pusat Rawatan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak serta penjenamaan semula Hospital Kajang kepada Hospital Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin di sini, semalam.

Turut berkenan berangkat ke majlis itu ialah Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

Turut hadir Menteri Besar Selangor, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari dan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

Sultan Sharafuddin turut merujuk isu kekurangan petugas kesihatan kerajaan sehingga ada yang perlu bertugas syif berganda, justeru baginda menitahkan KKM, segera menyelesaikan isu itu supaya jumlah kakitangan kesihatan dapat diagihkan secara saksama.

Cakna kebajikan petugas kesihatan

"Sekiranya perjawatan tidak mencukupi, wujudkanlah jawatan itu bagi menampung keperluan yang amat mendesak ini.

"Beta percaya dengan adanya sistem kerja yang tersusun dan ditambah baik, kebajikan kakitangan hospital akan terjamin serta kesejahteraan dari segi mental dan fizikal mereka akan lebih kuat dalam memberikan perkhidmatan terbaik ke-

pada rakyat," titah baginda.

Sultan Sharafuddin turut menzahirkan pandangan, perkhidmatan kesihatan di negara ini khususnya di Selangor perlu segera dipersiapkan untuk menghadapi peningkatan pesakit warga emas susulan unjuran Malaysia akan mencapai status negara tua menjelang 2035.

Baginda bertitah, perubahan dan kesihatan khusus iaitu perkhidmatan geriatrik bagi warga emas masih di peringkat belum boleh dibanggakan berbanding negara lain seperti Jepun dan Singapura.

"Beta berpandangan unit geriatrik harus diperbesar dan dinaik taraf di beberapa fasiliti hospital mahupun klinik kesihatan dengan tenaga pakar yang bersesuaian," titah baginda.

Baginda turut menitahkan, KKM mempertimbangkan pembinaan sebuah hospital rujukan bagi penjagaan geriatrik bagi menampung keperluan di Selangor.

Mengenai perasmian semalam, Sultan Sharafuddin bertitah Pusat Rawatan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak di hospital ini diharapkan mampu meningkatkan mutu perkhidmatan kepada rakyat di daerah Hulu Langat.

BERNAMA

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

SINAR HARIAN M/S 10 NASIONAL 14/2/25 (JUMAT)

Selesai isu kurang katil hospital

Sultan Selangor titah KKM pertimbang bina hospital baharu, tambah fasiliti

KAJANG

Sultan Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah menitahkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) supaya mempertimbangkan pembinaan hospital baharu serta penambahan fasiliti sedia ada bagi menyelesaikan masalah kekurangan katil di hospital-hospital utama di negeri itu.

Baginda bertitah, langkah tersebut perlu diambil kerana kepenggunaan katil di beberapa hospital utama kini amat tinggi, sehinggakan terdapat pesakit yang tidak dapat ditempatkan di katil apabila dimasukkan ke wad.

Sultan Sharafuddin turut menitahkan KKM untuk mempertimbangkan pembinaan lebih banyak klinik kerajaan baharu di kawasan yang strategik bagi membolehkan rakyat mendapat akses yang lebih meluas kepada rawatan kesihatan yang dikenakan caj berpatutan.

"Beta dapati berlaku kekurangan fasiliti klinik kesihatan di seluruh Selangor berbanding dengan bilangan penduduk," titah baginda semasa menyampaikan titah ucapan pada majlis perasmian Pusat Rawatan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak dan penjenamaan semula Hospital Kajang kepada Hospital Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin di sini pada Khamis.

Turut berkenan berangkat ke majlis itu ialah Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

Hadir sama, Menteri Besar Selangor, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari dan Menteri



Sultan Sharafuddin (empat dari kanan) bersama Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin (tiga dari kanan) berkenan melihat replika hospital selepas merasmikan Pusat Rawatan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak dan penjenamaan semula Hospital Kajang kepada Hospital Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin di Kajang pada Khamis.

Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

Sultan Sharafuddin turut merujuk kepada isu kekurangan petugas kesihatan kerajaan sehinggakan ada antara mereka yang perlu bertugas syif berganda, justeru baginda menitahkan KKM agar segera menyelesaikan isu tersebut supaya jumlah kakitangan kesihatan dapat diagihkan secara saksama.

"Sekiranya perjawatan tidak mencukupi, wujudkanlah jawatan bagi menampung keperluan amat mendesak ini.

"Beta percaya dengan adanya sistem kerja yang tersusun dan ditambah baik, kebajikan kakitangan hospital akan terjamin serta kesejahteraan dari segi mental dan fizikal mereka akan lebih kuat dalam memberikan perkhidmatan terbaik kepada rakyat," titah baginda.

Sultan Sharafuddin turut menzahirkan pandangan bahawa perkhidmatan kesihatan di negara ini khususnya di Selangor perlu segera dipersiapkan untuk menghadapi peningkatan pesakit warga emas susulan unjuran Malaysia akan mencapai status negara tua menjelang 2035.

Baginda bertitah, perubahan dan kesihatan khusus iaitu perkhidmatan geriatrik bagi warga emas masih di peringkat yang belum boleh dibanggakan berbanding negara lain seperti Jepun dan Singapura.

"Beta berpandangan unit geriatrik harus diperbesarkan dan dinaik taraf di beberapa fasiliti hospital mahupun klinik kesihatan dengan tenaga pakar yang bersesuaian," titah baginda.

Baginda turut menitahkan KKM

mempertimbangkan pembinaan sebuah hospital rujukan bagi penjagaan geriatrik bagi menampung keperluan di Selangor.

Mengenai perasmian tersebut, Sultan Sharafuddin bertitah, Pusat Rawatan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak (WCC) di hospital itu diharap mampu meningkatkan mutu perkhidmatan kepada rakyat di daerah Hulu Langat.

"Alhamdulillah, rakyat di Hulu Langat kini mempunyai pilihan kemudahan hospital kerajaan yang dilengkapi dengan peralatan canggih dan berteknologi tinggi bagi penyampaian perkhidmatan kesihatan wanita dan kanak-kanak yang komprehensif," titah baginda.

Sementara itu, Dr Dzulkefly dalam sembah ucapan berkata, Hospital Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin ialah hospital pakar yang mampu menerima lebih 28,000 pesakit setiap tahun.

Ujarnya, hospital itu kini tampil sebagai satu daripada hospital pakar utama yang dilengkapi kemudahan moden dan menawarkan 17 perkhidmatan kepakaran.

"Hospital ini berada dalam Program Hospital Kluster Lembah Klang Keempat yang dipimpin oleh Hospital Sultan Idris Shah, Serdang sebagai Lead Cluster Hospital. Ia memperoleh perkhidmatan pakar melalui lawatan pakar perubatan secara berkala dan perkongsian sumber sekali gus meningkatkan kualiti rawatan kepada pesakit," katanya.

Mengulas mengenai WCC hospital itu, ujarnya, ia dibina sebagai sebahagian daripada usaha KKM untuk mengurangkan kesesakan, memperluas akses rawatan dan memastikan pesakit menerima perkhidmatan terbaik.

"Sebanyak 1,043 perjawatan baharu diluluskan untuk memastikan fasiliti ini dipacu petugas kesihatan yang pakar dan berkemahiran tinggi," katanya. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : THE SUN DAILY
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

THESUN DAILY M/S3 NATIONAL 14/2/2025 (JUMAAT)

'Edible' skincare trend raises serious health concerns

■ BY DEEPALAKSHMI MANICKAM
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: After the Health Ministry recently halted the sale of a popular China-based cosmetics brand that marketed its products as "edible", experts are warning against the dangerous trend of consuming skincare products, which could lead to organ failure and life-threatening conditions.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad confirmed that the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency has demanded an explanation, citing violations of its guidelines for cosmetic claims and guidelines for cosmetic advertisement.

Aesthetic dermatology expert and founder of a supplements company Dr Lim Ing Kien described the practice as "extremely dangerous" and criticised parties promoting edible skincare products.

"These products are specifically formulated for external use and

➤ Experts say cosmetics formulated for external use and contain ingredients unsafe for consumption

contain ingredients that can be toxic when ingested. They include preservatives, emulsifiers and chemicals necessary for skin application, but which can cause severe gastritis and organ damage if consumed," he said.

Lim recounted a case involving a young patient who suffered severe gastritis after ingesting an allegedly "natural" face mask after being influenced by social media claims that it was edible.

"The patient required emergency medical intervention, but unfortunately, it was not an isolated incident."

He stressed that "edible skincare" is merely a marketing gimmick and while some products may use food

grade ingredients, that does not make them safe for consumption.

"The formulation as a whole is designed for stability and efficacy on the skin when used topically. They should not be ingested.

"Exaggerated claims prompt dangerous misconceptions, leading to improper product use. In the long run, this discourages people from seeking professional dermatological care when needed."

Lim urged consumers to scrutinise product labels and verify ingredients with trusted sources such as dermatologists or regulatory portals such as INCIdecoder, an online cosmetic database.

"Be wary of vague promises or 'miracle' solutions that seem too

good to be true. Properly regulated products will always have clear and measurable claims, not exaggerated or sensational ones."

He called on the ministry to adopt a more proactive approach in addressing the issue, given the rapid growth of the skincare industry and online sales, making it easier for misleading products to reach consumers.

"The skin is the largest organ of your body and what you apply to it matters. Do not fall for marketing hype or unverified claims. Always read labels carefully, patch-test new products and consult healthcare professionals when in doubt," he said.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia public health medicine specialist Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh similarly warned against believing claims that skincare products are edible.

"Such claims have dire public health implications since most cosmetic products contain chemicals that are unsuitable and unsafe for consumption. Vendors making such claims must provide toxicology or scientific reports proving the absence of toxic chemicals and ensuring safety for ingestion."

She emphasised that cosmetics are not formulated as nutritional products and without scientific evidence supporting their consumption, these claims are not merely misleading but outright false.

Sharifa Ezat also warned that ingesting skincare products could trigger severe allergic reactions due to their toxicity. Their chemical composition is not designed to be processed internally and may disrupt bodily functions.

She urged consumers to remain cautious, conduct research and choose products backed by toxicology reports from certified institutions.

"Consumers need to take these claims with a pinch of salt. Reliable products will always have proper documentation and certifications from reputable organisations or laboratories."

She advised consumers to stay vigilant and rely on evidence-based information when purchasing skincare products.

"Do not fall for exaggerated or sensational claims, and always verify a product's safety. Consult experts when in doubt."



Lim said "edible skincare" is merely a marketing gimmick and while some products may use food-grade ingredients, that does not make them safe to be ingested. - ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

UTUSAN MALAYSIA M/S 4 D/NEGERI 14/2/2025 (JUMAAT)

Sistem Maklumat Hospital tingkat kecekapan rawatan siap 2028

KUALA LUMPUR: Kementerian Kesihatan akan melaksanakan Sistem Maklumat Hospital (HIS) berasaskan pangkalan awan (*cloud base*) di fasiliti kesihatan seluruh negara dalam tempoh tiga tahun akan datang, dengan sasaran siap sepenuhnya pada 2028.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Lukanisman Awang Sauni berkata, pelaksanaan HIS melalui sistem Rekod Perubatan Elektronik (EMR) merupakan langkah strategik Kementerian Kesihatan dalam menangani beban pesakit yang terlalu ramai di hospital dan meningkatkan ke-

cekapan perkhidmatan rawatan. "Dengan HIS berasaskan awan, kita boleh memastikan pengurusan data pesakit lebih cekap dan selamat.

"Ia juga akan memudahkan perkongsian maklumat antara fasiliti kesihatan yang berbeza," katanya di sidang Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan Dr. Mohammed Taufiq Johari (PH-Sungai Petani) yang memintanya menyatakan menangani beban pesakit di hospital termasuk meningkatkan kapasiti hospital.

Lukanisman berkata, pelaksanaan ini adalah sebahagian

daripada inisiatif digitalisasi Kementerian untuk memastikan semua rekod perubatan dapat diakses dengan cepat dan tepat oleh pihak yang berkaitan.

"Kami berharap pelaksanaan ini akan membawa perubahan besar dalam mutu perkhidmatan kesihatan negara, selain mengurangkan masa menunggu bagi pesakit," katanya.

Beliau berkata, proses pelaksanaan ini melibatkan kerjasama rapat dengan pelbagai agensi kerajaan serta pakar teknologi maklumat bagi memastikan sistem berkenaan dapat berfungsi secara optimum.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 11
RUANGAN : NATION

THE STAR NATION m/s 11 14/2/2025 (JUMAAT)

Anti-smoking groups demand stricter vape enforcement

PETALING JAYA: With vape products still being marketed and sold online despite the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 (Act 852) being enforced, anti-smoking groups want the authorities and platform operators to take a more aggressive policing approach.

Malaysia Council for Tobacco Control president Dr M. Murallitharan said Act 852 was very clear in banning the sale of such products online, and asked how these products' online presence was being monitored.

"The duty of making sure these products are not online is a big responsibility of the online platforms too," he said.

"The sellers may not even know what they are selling. The whole thing is extremely dangerous."

Dr M. Murallitharan

He suggested that the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission handle the issue of tobacco products content with the

same approach it used to censor 3R (race, religion and royalty) content.

"Something similar should be in place, if not already there. It needs to be proactive and not only based on complaints," he added.

On the marketing of suspicious liquids with the label "mushrooms" online, he said these products often contained multiple substances each with its own addictive mechanisms and health hazards.

"The sellers may not even know what they are selling. The whole thing is extremely dangerous," he said.

Federation of Malaysian

Consumers Associations tobacco and smoking control coordinator Muhammad Sha'ani Abdullah described the situation as concerning as easy access to such substances could be the pathway to crimes and other vices.

"Vape devices can lead to drug abuse and it will be hard to trace. It can even be used by children," he said when contacted.

He urged the government to set a clear timeline to phase out smoking products in line with the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

"As a party, Malaysia is obligated to fully implement the provisions of the FCTC. This includes

achieving the Tobacco Endgame target by 2040, as outlined in the National Strategic Plan for Tobacco Control and Smoking Products 2021-2030," he said.

Muhammad Sha'ani said efforts should also be focused on the phased expansion of smoke-free zones and banning the display of tobacco products at points of sale.

Consumers Association of Penang education officer N.V. Subbarow called for increased emphasis in halting vape addiction. "Any delay in tackling the issue will be very dangerous for the young and our future generations. We cannot adopt a wait-and-see attitude as alarm bells are already ringing loudly," he said.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 11
RUANGAN : NATION

Vape seller blow past new regulations

THE STAR | NATION 14/2/2025 (MUSAAT)

'Mushrooms' and 'pods' keep vaping under the radar

By GERARD GIMINO
and JUNAID IBRAHIM
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: It's been more than four months since the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 (Act 852) is in force yet vape products are still being found sold online.

While searches for "vapes" yield no results, products can still be found by searching for specific brands.

To make matters worse, suspicious liquids labelled by sellers as "mushrooms" are also openly sold, claiming to guarantee being able to pass urine tests.

On a social media platform, various vape products are marketed openly in their e-commerce section, with various flavours offered by each seller.

They also use the word "pod" to

label the product, with it costing as cheap as RM10.

This is in stark contrast to the situation when Act 852 was enforced on Oct 1 last year, where vapes were nowhere to be found online.

Meanwhile, some sellers are marketing "mushroom juices" on a social media platform and even offering postage and self-pickup services. They are only marketed on closed groups and not openly.

The suspicious-looking liquids are packaged into small bottles and fitted with droppers, sold from as low as RM60.

The colourful liquids are sold in 5ml and 10ml packaging including disposable pods.

"Prices are negotiable and the quality is claimed to be the best. You can also combine it with any other flavours you want. Urine will also be clear," a seller said in

the caption.

Another seller said those purchasing higher quantities will have a special discount.

Reviews about the product were also posted.

Earlier in January, the National Anti-Drug Agency (AADK) confirmed that the "magic mushroom" contained liquids processed from cannabis and many are misused through vaping.

In the Klang Valley, however, checks at several vape stores found them complying with regulations under Act 852.

Sellers have also begun ensuring their products cannot be seen from outside the store, despite a grace period offered here up till April 1 this year.

"We've heavily tinted the glass at all three of our outlets.

"Although there's still time until the grace period ends, we had to



Not taking chances: Since the new regulations came into force, sellers have begun ensuring their products cannot be seen from outside the store, despite a grace period offered here up till April 1 this year.

take into consideration how long the work takes.

"At least now, we don't have to rush as the work is already done," said a vape store employee who wanted to be known only as Ramli.

At another store, an employer who identified himself as Fauzi said internal briefings were conducted to educate staffers on the regulations.

"We are quite well versed in what needs to be done. Apart from tinting the windows and glass doors, we also took down posters at walls near windows in

the premises.

"There's no need to take any chances on this," he said.

Vape products in several convenience stalls were also observed to have been repositioned to locked containers behind counters.

The first phase of Act 852 came into force on Oct 1 last year. The second and third phases are to be enforced beginning April 1 and Oct 1 this year, respectively.

The Act seeks to cover regulations on registration, sale, packaging, labelling and prohibition of smoking in public places.