



MEDIA STATEMENT

UNFAIR TO PUNISH THE ENTIRE VAPE INDUSTRY

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 NOVEMBER 2024 – The Malaysian Vape Chamber of Commerce (MVCC) is urges the public to focus on the issue that has been featured recently, which is the growing prevalence of drugs. MVCC supports the need for stronger enforcement and regulations for drug abuse, but urges the public to a focus on the right issue.

Deputy Secretary General of MVCC, Ridhwan Rosli, said that these social issues have been misinterpreted by the public, and will create bigger problems if not properly addressed.

"The issues raised recently are serious, and MVCC supports more frequent enforcement by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) and its agencies. We hope that the right issues will be addressed and not affect other industries."

"It is not fair to punish the vape industry. Many industry players support regulations under Act 852 so that products on the market are safe for adult use. Our 2023 study reported more than 30% vape users had quit smoking completely. To say that the widespread use of vape is due to social issues is inaccurate and will affect the entire industry which is predominantly led by the Bumiputera community."

At the same time, Ridhwan also commented on the non-uniformity in the implementation of laws between the federal and state governments. Act 852 was created to ensure clear regulations of vape products. However, it is surprising when the Minister of Health said that state governments are given the freedom to determine their own policies.

MVCC have observed the negative impact of different legal applications on the vape industry at the local level before Act 852 was announced by the Ministry of Health (MoH). Instead of curbing use, the opposite has occurred, as enforcement issues result in increased smuggling and sale of unsafe vape products.

"MoH has announced controls in terms of permitted ingredients, shape of product, packaging, and labeling. We urge all authorities to be confident in the latest MoH regulations and processes, and reflect this national policy at the local government level."

"The rational solution is a set of regulations that are consistent throughout the country, and not different from one place to another. A ban will only encourage the vape black market because without an approval application process, the authorities cannot detect and monitor between legal and illegal products. To ensure that this situation is stopped, we hope that all authorities are confident with the rules and processes of the MoH so that products are legal and safe to use," added **Ridhwan**.

Therefore, MVCC urges the government to take a holistic approach in managing this issue. Actions taken need to be comprehensive and address the right social issues.

End

About the Malaysian Vape Chamber of Commerce

Established in 2015, the Malaysian Vape Chamber of Commerce (MVCC) is the one and only society related to vape registered with the Registrar of Societies under Malaysia's Ministry of Home Affairs. Our priority is to help make the vape industry in Malaysia be more competitive and structured as a whole. With the help of our dedicated members, we have organised awareness campaigns, community-building events, in-depth training and engagement sessions with government agencies.