

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Kedah pertimbang haramkan vape

UTUSAN MALAYSIA M3 4 D1 NEGERI 28/4/2025 (ISNIN)

SUNGAIPETANI: Kerajaan negeri Kedah sedang menimbangkan untuk mengharamkan penjualan vape atau rokok elektronik, seiring langkah yang telah diambil oleh Johor sejak 2016, serta Perlis dan Terengganu yang bakal mengikut jejak sama.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md. Nor berkata, cadangan itu akan dibincangkan dalam mesyuarat Exco negeri minggu depan bagi mempertimbangkan langkah terbaik demi kesejahteraan rakyat, khususnya golongan muda.

“Kalau boleh, kita nak ikut Terengganu. Vape ini dikatakan lebih bahaya daripada rokok kerana mengandungi banyak bahan kimia berbahaya, malah ada yang memasukkan dadah ‘mushroom’. Jadi, kita akan bincang dan buat keputusan terbaik demi anak-anak kita,” katanya selepas merasmikan Majlis Konvokesyen Akademi Darul Ilmi (ADI) di sini, semalam.

Media sebelum ini melaporkan Perlis dan Terengganu bakal mengharamkan penjualan rokok elektronik tersebut.

Ia susulan saranan Timbalan Ketua Polis Negara, Datuk Seri Ayob Khan Mydin Pitchay yang mencadangkan kerajaan-kerajaan negeri mengikut langkah Johor yang menguatkuasakan larangan itu melalui peruntukan undang-undang di bawah pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) masing-masing.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Muhammad Sanusi tetap berpuas hati dengan sokongan pengundi teras Perikatan Nasional (PN) pada Pilihan Raya Kecil (PRK) Dewan Undangan Negeri



Kalau boleh, kita nak ikut Terengganu. Vape ini dikatakan lebih bahaya daripada rokok kerana mengandungi banyak bahan kimia berbahaya, malah ada yang memasukkan dadah ‘mushroom’.”

(DUN) Ayer Kuning meskipun tewas kepada Barisan Nasional (BN).

Beliau yang juga Ketua Pengarah Pilihan Raya PN berkata, sokongan pengundi teras PN tidak berkurang namun peratusan keluar mengundi yang rendah menyebabkan PN mengalami kekurangan sebanyak 800 undi.

“Bilik gerakan baru sahaja hantar analisis, saya pun tak sempat nak baca lagi. Tetapi daripada segi keseluruhan pengundi PN tidak berkurang tetap ‘maintain’ kita punya pengundi teras di sana.

“Walaupun tidak bertambah tetapi dengan merosotnya peratusan keluar mengundi cuma 57 peratus sahaja, undi kita ‘maintain’ dan cuma kurang 800 undi sahaja,” katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Kosmo m/s 6 NEWAHA 28/4/2025 (ISNIN)

'Kami bakal rugi RM5 juta sebulan'

- **Pengusaha vape di Terengganu rayu tangguh larangan**
- **Tempoh tiga bulan didakwa terlalu singkat**

Oleh ZAID MOHD. NOOR

KUALA TERENGGANU – Seramai 169 pengusaha premis rokok elektronik (vape) merayu kepada Kerajaan Negeri Terengganu agar menangguhkan tempoh penguatkuasaan larangan penjualan produk tersebut di negeri itu yang bakal berkuat kuasa pada Ogos ini.

Presiden Pertubuhan Peniaga Vape Melayu Terengganu, Muhd. Kamaruzaman Mahmud berkata, tempoh tiga bulan diberikan

kerajaan sebelum pelaksanaan penguatkuasaan adalah terlalu singkat untuk peniaga tempatan menghabiskan stok produk vape mereka seterusnya mencari peluang peniagaan baharu.

"Beri kami tempoh untuk membuat persiapan menutup perniagaan, seterusnya menceburi perniagaan atau pekerjaan baharu.

"Keputusan penguatkuasaan larangan tersebut diumumkan secara mengejut dan terburu-buru tanpa mengadakan perbincangan awal dengan pemain industri," katanya selepas mengetuai perhimpunan aman membantah penguatkuasaan larangan penjualan produk vape di sini semalam.

Terdahulu, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kerajaan Tempatan, Perumahan dan Kesihatan Terengganu, Datuk Wan Sukairi

Wan Abdullah mengumumkan penguatkuasaan penjualan produk vape di semua premis seluruh negeri ini akan berkuat kuasa 1 Ogos ini.

Muhd. Kamaruzaman mendakwa, tindakan drastik terbabit menyebabkan pengusaha industri vape di Terengganu mengalami kerugian kira-kira RM5 juta sebulan.

Dalam perkembangan sama, beliau mendakwa keputusan Kerajaan Negeri Terengganu itu bertentangan dengan Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024.

"Akta tersebut diperkenalkan untuk mengawal selia penjualan rokok dan vape, bukan larangan muktak. Pengharaman secara keseluruhan terhadap penjualan vape bercanggah dengan akta berkenaan," katanya.



SEBAHAGIAN pengusaha vape Terengganu membuat perhimpunan aman membantah pengharaman jualan vape di Kuala Terengganu semalam.

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 11
RUANGAN : SPEAK UP

LETTERS letters@thesundaily.com

THE SUN M311 SPEAK UP 28/4/2025 (ISNIN)

Transparency in medical billing vital

IN January 2025, chief executive of Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy Azrul Mohd Khalib highlighted that an estimated 70% of private hospital charges remain unregulated.

This means that hospitals have the liberty to set arbitrary prices for a range of items and services, including essential medical equipment such as wheelchairs, heart monitors and even emesis basins. Only 30% of hospital bills are regulated, primarily covering specialist fees and medication.

This lack of oversight has led to numerous cases where patients unknowingly pay excessive sum of medical bills for items that should otherwise be reasonably priced.

Hidden hospital charges, often labelled as profiteering, are a widespread problem in Malaysia. For example, a simple medical glove that costs RM5 per pair may be billed at RM20. In most cases, patients pay these inflated charges without question. This is because patients rarely scrutinise their medical bills, either due to a lack of knowledge or because they assume that everything charged is legitimate.

As a result, they end up shouldering excessive costs without the ability to challenge these expenses.

One of the most alarming aspects of hidden hospital charges is the suppression of information. Some hospitals use this tactic to increase their revenue without the patient's awareness.

Malaysia's current healthcare system lacks a clear mechanism for patients to challenge inflated or hidden costs, unlike in countries that have implemented price transparency regulations.

For instance, the US introduced the hospital price transparency rule on Jan 1, 2021, which makes it a requirement for hospitals to publicly disclose a list of their standard charges for various services. This enables patients to compare hospital prices before seeking treatment and allowing them to make informed financial decisions regarding their medical care.

Similarly, Singapore was set to introduce the Health Information Bill in mid-2024, which would improve transparency in healthcare pricing and data management. The country also has a robust regulatory system where medical costs in public hospitals are monitored and pricing is often published online, allowing patients to compare treatment costs across different hospitals.

Australia follows a different but equally effective approach. The Australian government regulates healthcare pricing through the Medicare Benefits Schedule, which ensures that citizens and permanent residents receive subsidies for hospital services.

Private hospitals in Australia are required to provide financial consent before treatment, meaning patients must be informed about the estimated costs and any out-of-pocket expenses they may incur. This allows patients to plan their finances accordingly and prevents hospitals from imposing hidden charges after treatment.

Additionally, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission closely monitors healthcare pricing to prevent exploitative billing practices. The right to know the cost of medical treatment is a fundamental consumer right that is often overlooked in Malaysia.

Patients should be entitled to an itemised bill that details each charge, allowing them to identify any unnecessary or excessive fees. Hospitals should also be required to disclose pricing structures upfront so that patients can make financial decisions with clarity.

In instances where patients identify unethical billing practices, they should have a legal avenue to dispute the charges.

Many patients are unaware of the steps they can take to protect themselves from hidden charges.

One of the most effective ways to safeguard against excessive billing is to demand an itemised bill. By requesting a detailed breakdown of all charges, patients can scrutinise their medical expenses and challenge any discrepancies.

Furthermore, patients should not hesitate to dispute unethical fees. If a hospital bill contains unjustified charges, patients should engage with the hospital's billing department to seek clarification.

In cases where disputes remain unresolved, patients should report the matter to the Health Ministry or the National Consumer Complaint Centre (NCCC). This organisation plays a crucial role in advocating for consumer rights and ensuring that unethical hospital billing practices are addressed.

Insurance also plays a crucial role in managing medical expenses. Patients must have a clear understanding of their insurance coverage, including which procedures and treatments are included and which are not.

Many insurance policies require pre-authorization for specific treatments, making it essential for policyholders to obtain the necessary approvals before undergoing medical procedures.

Patients should communicate with their insurance providers to ensure they are fully aware of the coverage limitations and potential exclusions in their policies.

Key takeaways for understanding insurance include:



Hospitals should be required to disclose pricing structures upfront so that patients can make financial decisions with clarity.

— AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THE SUN

"The issue of hidden hospital charges is a growing concern, and by looking at international best practices and adopting measures to regulate hospital pricing, Malaysia can move towards a more transparent and fair healthcare system."

② Always review the policy's terms and conditions to understand claimable and non-claimable expenses.

③ Verify whether a guarantee letter from the employer or insurer fully covers all medical treatments.

④ Ask for a pre-treatment estimate and clarify any potential additional costs before proceeding with medical procedures.

⑤ Ensure that any required pre-authorisations are obtained before undergoing hospital treatments.

To improve transparency and prevent hospitals from imposing unreasonable charges, the government should consider implementing several key reforms.

Firstly, the government should introduce regulations that mandate hospitals to disclose their pricing structures publicly. This would allow patients to compare costs across different hospitals and make informed decisions regarding their medical care.

For example, legal fees for lawyers are strictly regulated by the Solicitors' Remuneration Order 2023.

Secondly, an independent regulatory body should be established to oversee private hospital pricing and ensure that all charges are fair and justifiable. This body could also act as a mediator in billing disputes, providing patients with a channel to contest excessive fees.

Thirdly, greater public awareness initiatives should be launched to educate consumers on their rights in relation to hospital billing and insurance coverage. Many patients remain unaware of the steps they can take to protect themselves.

If faced with hidden charges, patients have several avenues for recourse. The first step is to file a complaint with the hospital's patient relations officer. If the issue remains unresolved, patients can escalate the complaint to the Health Ministry.

Additionally, consumer protection groups, such as NCCC, can assist in addressing cases of overpricing and unethical billing practices. By taking collective action, patients can play a significant role in pushing for greater transparency in the healthcare system.

The issue of hidden hospital charges is a growing concern and by looking at international best practices and adopting measures to regulate hospital pricing, Malaysia can move towards a more transparent and fair healthcare system.

It is crucial for the government and consumers to work together in addressing this problem, ensuring that patients receive the medical care they need without being subjected to unjust financial strain. The time for change is now and concrete steps must be taken to protect the rights and financial well-being of patients.

In response to these systemic issues, Fomca (Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations) has been lobbying for the establishment of an independent oversight body to regulate managed healthcare insurance third-party administrators (MHIT) and private hospitals.

This body would play a vital role in ensuring accountability, transparency and fairness in billing practices, and it would also serve as a mediator in dispute resolutions between consumers, insurance providers and healthcare institutions.

Fomca believes that such a regulatory framework is long overdue. The absence of regulatory safeguards has allowed MHIT and private hospitals to act with near-impunity, often leaving patients helpless in contesting exorbitant medical bills.

Zubli Quazairy Zubli
NCCC

Strategic Partner of Fomca

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 19
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

BH 11/5/19 NASIONAL 28/4/2025 (ISNIN)
39 alami demam, batuk, ruam selepas serai perkhemahan

Penduduk nafi punca jangkitan dari Titi Hayun

Yan: Penduduk di sekitar Titi Hayun percaya penyakit berjangkit membabitkan sekumpulan pelajar sekolah menengah dan kakitangan sebuah sekolah di Kuala Muda, baru-baru ini mungkin bukan berpunca dari kawasan itu kerana mereka tidak mengalami sebarang jangkitan.

Penjual cendol, Jaafar Hanafiah, 59, berkata setakat ini dia difahamkan tiada penduduk dari Kampung Setol, Kampung Pauh, Kampung Acheh dan Kampung Perigi yang menunjukkan tanda dijangkiti penyakit berkenaan.

"Saya tahu mengenai kes ini, tetapi keadaan di sini masih terkawal. Saya sendiri sihat, begitu juga penduduk lain. Jadi, saya percaya jangkitan itu datang dari tempat lain, bukan dari kawasan ini."

"Saya pun tak tahu penyakit ini jenis apa, cara jangkitan macam mana dan sebagainya. Kami pun tunggu laporan pihak berwajib."

"Kami pun mandi dan minum air sama, tak tahu penyakit ini dari mana," katanya ketika ditemui di sini, semalam.

Jaafar berkata, sejak berita mengenai kejadian itu tersebar, jumlah pengunjung ke kawasan peranginan Titi Hayun sedikit menurun, namun tiada arahan penutupan dikeluarkan pihak berkuasa.

"Perniagaan sedikit terjejas, tetapi kami masih beroperasi seperti biasa," katanya. Terdahulu, seramai 39 individu, termasuk pelajar Tingkatan Empat dan kakitangan sebuah sekolah di Kuala Muda dilaporkan mengalami gejala demam, batuk dan ruam selepas menghadiri kem latihan persendirian di Yan.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Perumahan, Kerjaan Tempatan dan Kesihatan negeri, Mansor Zakaria, berkata semua mangsa kini dalam keadaan stabil selepas menerima rawatan di Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim Sungai Petani. Sementara itu, pengusaha kem terabit yang enggan dikenali berkata, kem berkenaan mematuhi semua prosedur operasi standard (SOP) dan mempunyai kelulusan operasi daripada pihak berkuasa.

Mansor Zakaria



Beliau berkata, kumpulan pelajar berkenaan menginap di kem itu hingga Sabtu lalu, namun tiada kakitangan atau pe-
lawat lain mengalami simptom penyakit.

"Kami semua menggunakan sumber air sama. Setakat ini, tiada kes lain dilaporkan. Sebagai langkah berjaga-jaga, kem ini ditutup sementara selama dua minggu," katanya.

Panggilan untuk Penyataan Minat bagi Pengusaha Makanan, Minuman dan Runcit untuk Peluang Penyewaan Baharu di Blok 2, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad
(Dahulu dikenali sebagai Bangunan Pejabat Pos Besar Lama)



Melakar Semula Warisan

Pihak yang berminat dijemput untuk menghubungi Perunding Runcit Evon Lew, bagi mendapatkan pakej Penyataan Minat (EOI)

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ASET WARISAN EMPAT SDN BHD

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : LOKAL

4m m3 6 LOKAL 28.4.2025 (ISNIN)

39 pelajar, kakitangan sekolah jatuh sakit balik perkhemahan

Alor Setar: Seramai 39 pelajar dan kakitangan sebuah sekolah di negeri ini dilaporkan mengalami simptom demam, batuk dan ruam selepas menyertai program perkhemahan di Yan, baru-baru ini.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan negeri, Mansor Zakaria berkata, seramai 763 pelajar dan kakitangan sekolah terbabit dalam program di tapak perkhemahan persendirian itu.

Katanya, seramai 39 peserta dilaporkan ada simptom berkaitan selepas pulang menyebabkan mereka terpaksa dapatkan rawatan.

"Semua pelajar yang mempunyai simptom menerima rawatan di Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim (HSAH) Sungai Petani dan keadaan mereka dilaporkan stabil ketika ini," katanya.

Mansor berkata, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) dimaklumkan mengenai kejadian itu dan



Semua pelajar ada simptom dirawat di Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim (HSAH) Sungai Petani dan mereka stabil

Mansor Zakaria

siasatan lanjut masih dilakukan bagi mengetahui punca kejadian.

Katanya, beliau sendiri akan melakukan lawatan ke tapak perkhemahan terbabit bagi mendapatkan maklumat.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : LOKAL

HM M156 LOKAL 28/4/2025 (ISNIN)

Larang vape: 169 peniaga tanggung kerugian RM5 juta

Kuala Terengganu: Pertubuhan Peniaga Vape Melayu Terengganu meminta kerajaan negeri dapat melanjutkan tempoh penguatkuasaan larangan penjualan produk vape di negeri itu.

Presidennya, Muhd Kamaruzaman Mahmud berkata, tempoh tiga bulan yang ditetapkan kerajaan negeri sebelum pelaksanaan larangan itu tidak mencukupi untuk pengusaha menghabiskan stok dan beralih mencari peluang perniagaan baharu.

Menurutnya, industri vape di negeri itu bertapak sejak 13 tahun lalu dan untuk beralih ke perniagaan baharu dalam tempoh masa singkat sukar dilaksanakan dan bukan mudah mereka memulakan perniagaan baharu.

"Kesan daripada pengharaman penjualan (vape) ini, 169 pengusaha terpaksa menanggung

kerugian lebih RM5 juta, manakala lebih 400 pekerja hilang sumber pendapatan serta menjejaskan ekosistem perniagaan yang sah dan mematuhi undang-undang.

"Kami juga terkilan apabila keputusan yang dibuat kerajaan negeri tanpa sebarang perbincangan dengan penggiat industri vape.

"Pengharaman terhadap penjualan vape ini jelas bercanggah dengan Akta 852 Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024, akta yang sama digunakan untuk mengawal selia rokok dan bukannya larangan mutlak.

"Sebarang tindakan kerajaan negeri wajar selaras dasar kebangsaan agar tidak berlaku pertindihan atau kekeliruan," katanya ditemui ketika mengetuai himpunan aman membantah pengharaman penjualan produk vape di sini.