

**Memorandum:** Prioritize Health Care. Pass the Tobacco Product Control For Public Health Bill 2023 and Generational End Game (GEG).

From: University of Malaya Public Health Master's Students' Movement

On 30th May, an incident of a 2-year-old from Bera, Pahang was reported with acute nicotine poisoning. MOH Malaysia issued a media statement afterwards to inform that the child was stabilized. However, this does not change the truth that nicotine is a poison, which is easily absorbed into the body, is harmful and can kill. The average weight of a 2-year-old is 12kg and a teaspoon of nicotine is sufficient to kill a 11kg child. It is a miracle that the child had survived it. This is a sad but real consequence of legalising the sales of both liquid and gel nicotine without proper policy and governance in place. These products are widely accessible in the Malaysian market.

In a press statement earlier, the University of Malaya Public Health Master's Students group highlighted that the declassification of liquid and gel nicotine from Poisons Act 1952 poses serious public health risks to both adults and children. Recently, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urges all countries, including Malaysia, to protect their citizens, especially children, from e-cigarettes and vape, dismissing the tobacco industry's claim of harm reduction with such products. He described it as a trap which lures kids at an early age of 10-12 years old to try it out. because they find that it's cool since it comes in different colours, flavours, and so on. When they grew up, they move into regular cigarette smoking. On top of that, e-cigarettes and vape.

Tedros said, "So because of these two things, I think, what we say to all countries – please protect your citizens, especially your children." He pointed out that recent studies have shown the early initiation of vaping and the use of e-cigarettes, as well as advertising of such products inside or near schools. "So it has to be regulated, and it has to be taken seriously." said WHO DG. He concluded with a pledge to all countries to protect our citizens, especially our children. According to National Health and morbidity survey 2022 (9.8%), the number of Malaysian who were currently involved with vaping increased by 5.1% in 2017 (14.9%) and it is foreseen to rocket among the younger generation.

Interestingly, Euromonitor International reported that the global market for e-cigarettes was worth US\$15.7 billion in 2018, with a projection to double to US\$40 billion in 2023. On the other hand, the global cigarette market was worth US\$888 billion in 2018 and is projected to reach a value of US\$1,124 billion by 2024. \$8.6 billion was spent on aggressive marketing in 2017 alone. It is a profitable business but the students' movement sincerely wishes that all members of Parliament to put their personal interests aside or realign their personal interests for a better nation's health for today and tomorrow.

Therefore, the students' group urges the full support from members of Parliament to ensure that the Tobacco Product Control For Public Health Bill 2023 and Generational End Game (GEG) will be tabled, debated and passed as soon as possible to curb nicotine and drug abuse in vape products. Besides, it is high time for the Minister of Health to re-list the liquid and gel forms of nicotine in the Poisons Act 1952. This is in line with the mandate from Agenda Nasional Sihat Malaysia (ANMS)





Far left (speaking): Oui Hui Che, Dr. 'Aziezh Norul Anhar, Dr Jeshua Navaraj, Dr Chin Yu Aun, Dr Anis Adilah 'Izzati Azizan

Photo credits: Emylia Rosli (Malaysiakini)  
Link: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/661434>



The Universiti Malaya Public Health Master's Students' Movement holds a press conference at

Universiti Malaya on April 7, 2023, on the declassification of liquid nicotine as a controlled substance. Far left: Oui Hui Che, centre (speaking): Dr Jeshua Navaraj, and on Dr Jeshua's left is Dr Chin Yu Aun.

Link:

<https://codeblue.galencentre.org/2023/04/07/liquid-nicotine-delisting-backward-step-for-malaysia-sa-y-um-public-health-students/>

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Far left: Dr. 'Aziezah Norul Anhar, Dr Chin Yu Aun, Prof Dr Victor Hoe, Dr Jeshua Navaraj, Oui Hui Che, Dr Anis Adilah 'Izzati Azizan

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