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UP TO 80% of Malaysians want the government to take more action to regulate the vaping industry, according to a survey.

The poll, entitled "Malaysian Insights and Perspectives on Vape", also revealed that 76% agree that the economy would benefit from regulations on vaping products.

"The opinion poll shows most Malaysians want regulations on vape products. Official reports from the Ministry of Health indicate that there are over one million vapers in the country and yet there are no regulations in place, leaving consumers no choice but to use unregulated products," president of Malaysian Vape Industry Advocacy Rizani Zakaria said in a statement yesterday.

Rizani believes that the implementation of excise tax on vape products earlier this year is a step in the right direction towards regulating the industry.

He said many agree that tax should be imposed on vape products as the revenue collected can be put to good use.

"However, the current excise taxation structure does not include vape e-liquid containing nicotine,



Pic by Muhd Amin Naharul

The vape industry has significant potential to contribute to the economy with capabilities to create jobs, develop existing businesses within the industry and attracting investments

which makes up the majority of the local market. This inevitably means that revenue collection will not be maximised, and the implementation of excise duties will be ineffective," he said further.

"The government should expand the tax structure to include vape e-liquids containing nicotine and introduce clear regulations for this

product. That way, the government can maximise revenue collection and at the same time, ensure consumers are using regulated products in Malaysia," Rizani added.

The survey, conducted by Green Zebras, was commissioned by Malaysian Vape Industry Advocacy.

Its objective is to understand Malaysians' perception on vaping

where the survey also delved into the opinions of the local population on the economic impact of vaping, as well as as a method of tobacco harm reduction.

Additional findings from the Malaysian Insights and Perspectives on Vape survey will be released in the coming weeks.

This survey consisted of a sample size of 1,025 Malaysian adults.

Rizani said recent reports from local industry groups have confirmed that the vape industry has significant potential to contribute to the Malaysian economy with capabilities to create jobs, develop existing businesses and SMEs within the industry, on top of attracting investments.

"This is a fact that cannot be ignored, and the government must act quickly to introduce regulations on vape products," he added.

The poll also saw 87% Malaysians agree that tax should be imposed on vaping products and 74% think that the revenue collected from vape products could be spent by the government on areas of importance such as education and economy. — TMR