

PM responded 'positively' to cannabis caucus' ideas

Malaysiakini

12 April 2022

Bernama

The Medical Cannabis Caucus held an official meeting with Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob today who, they say, responded positively to their ideas.

In a statement today, the caucus said discussions centred on the hemp, medical cannabis and ketum industry.

They also discussed the prosecution of citizens who use cannabis for medical purposes.

"The prime minister (above) responded positively on issues concerning the industry and said it will be discussed in further detail in the cabinet," he said.

The caucus comprises Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman (Muda-Muar), Azalina Othman Said (BN-Pengerang), Khalid Abd Samad (Pakatan Harapan-Shah Alam), Dr Xavier Jayakumar (Independent-Kuala Langat), Ignatius Darell Leiking

(Warisan-Penampong), Kelvin Yii (Harapan-Bandar Kuching) and Dr Azman Ismail (Harapan-Kuala Kedah).

Parliamentary cauces are not official bodies but instead are groups of MPs with common interests.

Legal in Thailand

According to the caucus' statement, the medical cannabis industry makes RM60 billion a year and more than 40 countries, including neighbouring Thailand have legalised its use.

"The Medical Cannabis Caucus believes that Malaysia has the space and opportunity in this industry for medical and research purposes. It can bring many benefits to Malaysia," said the caucus.

The meeting between the caucus and the prime minister follows the charging of singer Yasin Sulaiman over cannabis plants and flowers found in his house.

According to the police, Yasin was in possession of 214 grams of dried cannabis - an offence that results in a mandatory death sentence.

Cannabis use is banned under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1954 while ketum is regulated under the Poisons Act 1952, which does not carry the death penalty.

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Source: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/617819>