

**Minister applauds PM's 'understanding' over vape issue**  
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Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob today thanked Putrajaya for "understanding the aspiration of youths" after the federal government decided not to ban electronic cigarettes, also known as vapes.

He posted on his Facebook page that the Cabinet's decision not to ban vapes was good news for vapers, vape brewers and vape traders.

"Thank you, prime minister and the government for understanding the aspirations of youths," he wrote.

Ismail Sabri (pic, right) is supportive of the use of e-cigarettes. In a posting on Facebook yesterday after the Health Ministry said it was proposing to ban vapes, he said the matter would be discussed in Cabinet and he would present his views that vaping should not be prohibited.

"I will give my views so that the proposal is studied so that vape will not be banned, because a report from Britain had stated that it should not be banned and in fact, smokers are encouraged to switch to vaping.

"I understand that the nicotine level in vapes is only 3%, compared to some cigarettes that have a nicotine content of 13%. If cigarettes are more dangerous than vape, why not ban cigarettes?" he said.

Ismail also posted a screengrab of a news report in British daily Telegraph that said research found e-cigarettes carried only 5% of the risk of tobacco and should be widely adopted by smokers.

Yesterday, Health Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya told reporters at the Parliament lobby that the government had not decided to ban e-cigarettes.

He said it was still too early to decide as there was no specific law on it.

Last week, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said the government would consider imposing a ban on e-cigarettes in the near future to prevent adverse health effects on consumers. – October 30, 2015.

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