

# MMA calls for immediate liquid nicotine relisting under Poisons Act following court ruling

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May 19, 2026 @ 3:57pm



*Malaysia Medical Association (MMA) presidents Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo said the association had repeatedly warned against the move since March 2023. — NSTP/RAIHANA MANSOR*

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has called for the immediate relisting of liquid nicotine under the Poisons Act 1952 following a recent landmark High Court ruling.

The High Court recently ruled that the 2023 delisting of liquid nicotine from the Poisons List was [unlawful](#).

MMA welcomed the decision, stating it had maintained its opposition since the delisting was gazetted in March 2023.

Its president, Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo, said the association had repeatedly warned against the move since March 2023.

"We warned that removing nicotine from the Poisons Act before any tobacco control law was in place was reckless," he said in a statement today.

He said MMA had urged the prime minister to reverse the decision and expressed disappointment when the advice was ignored.

Thirunavukarasu added that the Poisons Board had given unanimous expert advice, which was ultimately overruled.

"The court has confirmed that it was wrong," he said, noting the case highlighted concerns over health policy being shaped by fiscal considerations rather than medical evidence.

The association urged the government not to appeal the ruling, but to accept and learn from it.

"No future public health decision should be made primarily for fiscal reasons. The health of our children is not a budget line item.

"The Poisons Board exists for a reason. So does the rule of law," he said.

MMA called for liquid nicotine to be relisted under the Poisons Act without delay and that expert medical advice be respected in future public health decisions.

The [issue](#) comes amid ongoing legal and regulatory developments involving the Health Ministry and the Attorney-General's Chambers over the judicial review of nicotine's exemption from the Poisons Act. The NST has reached out to the Health Ministry for comment.