

Medical association urges MoH to halt Poisons Act amendment

By Lim How Pim on July 27, 2025, Sunday at 8:01 AM [Sarawak](#)

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KUCHING (July 27): The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has urged the Ministry of Health (MoH) and MPs to halt further readings of the Poisons (Amendment) Bill 2025 until a thorough consultation process has been undertaken.

MMA president Dato Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira said the association acknowledged the government's intention of strengthening the enforcement, possibly in response to serious cross-border threats such as drug-smuggling, maritime trafficking or other reasons, which had not been made known.

"However, he argued that if this was the objective, then the reasons must be made clear and the scope of the amendment must be clearly and appropriately defined in the legislation.

“The fact that no consultation was held with medical stakeholders, is a major procedural oversight.

“These are not peripheral changes – they affect the daily operations of thousands of practitioners nationwide,” he said in a statement.

According to Dr Kalwinder, the current language in the Bill is ‘overly broad-based’.

“Clause 2’s inclusion of all police officers as authorised officers and the new Section 31A, which allows the minister to appoint ‘any person’ without clear qualifications, raises serious concerns about unchecked enforcement power and the potential for disruption to licensed private healthcare facilities including GP (general practitioner’s) clinics, mobile services and charity-based health initiatives.”

Dr Kalwinder said the MMA was particularly troubled by the expanded definition of ‘premises’, which could subject legitimate medical facilities to be clumped together with those deemed criminal or non-healthcare related, and thus, subject to similar inspections or enforcement actions.

He further pointed out that this would risk not only operational disruptions, but also violations of patients’ confidentiality and trust.

“The Act must clearly delineate between enforcement aimed at criminal activity, and regulation of clinical practice.

“Private healthcare facilities are already under the ambit of the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998 (Act 586) and enforcement by MoH.

“This should remain as it is,” stressed Dr Kalwinder.

Nonetheless, he said MMA remained ready to engage in meaningful dialogue to ensure that public safety and professional integrity would both be protected.