NEW STRAITS TIMES

60 school pupils hospitalised in Jamaica after eating weed candy

By Reuters - October 4, 2023 @ 1:12pm



Jamaica decriminalised marijuana possession for religious, medicinal, and scientific purposes in 2015 and established a licensing agency for the legal medical cannabis industry in the country. - REUTERS PIC

KINGSTON: More than 60 Jamaican primary schoolchildren were hospitalised after consuming rainbow-coloured cannabis candy, as reported by the Caribbean nation's education minister on the social media platform, X (formerly Twitter).

This incident occurred despite Jamaica's 2015 decriminalisation of marijuana possession of up to 2 ounces (57 grams) for religious, medicinal, and scientific purposes. The consumption of these potent candies resulted in vomiting and hallucinations among the children.

Jamaican Education Minister, Fayval Williams expressed her determination to enhance safety measures and combat the irresponsible sale of marijuana-infused products to minors. She described her meeting with parents and stakeholders of Ocho Rios Primary School as an unfortunate circumstance.

Late on Monday, Williams shared an image from her ministry, displaying a colourful package labelled "full throttle rainbow sour belts," each containing 100 milligrams of Tetrahydrocannabinol or THC- which is the major psychoactive component in cannabis- a dosage typically meant for experienced adults. Williams highlighted that some children required intravenous drips to expedite their recovery, underscoring the potency of these products.

Jamaica decriminalised marijuana possession for religious, medicinal, and scientific purposes in 2015 and established a licensing agency for the legal medical cannabis industry in the country.

Radio Jamaica reported that the Ganja Growers and Producers Association of Jamaica was advocating for a public education campaign to promote responsible adult consumption and deter children from using marijuana, along with advocating for stricter packaging regulations. - REUTERS