



AMERICAN KRATOM ASSOCIATION

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The American Kratom Association Supports Indonesian Government Request to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to Lift the Kratom Import Alert

Dr. Moeldoko defends the right of kratom farmers in Indonesia to export kratom to the United States to protect the economic livelihood for 250,000+ farmers and their families in Indonesia.

WASHINGTON, D.C., UNITED STATES, November 28, 2023 – In a letter to General TNI (Ret.) Dr. Moeldoko, chief of staff to the President of Indonesia, the American Kratom Association (“AKA”) expressed its strong support for the September 29, 2023, request made by Dr. Moeldoko to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) to lift Import Alert 54-15 that attempts to restrict exports of kratom to the United States and expressed its opposition to the proposed temporary suspension of kratom exports made by two kratom processors in Indonesia.

Mac Haddow, Senior Fellow on Public Policy with the AKA, praised the commitment by Dr. Moeldoko to remain focused on protecting the more than 250,000+ farmers and their families who rely solely on the harvesting of kratom raw materials. “The peer-reviewed published scientific literature on kratom since 2018 has shown an even stronger case that the FDA is wrong on kratom and proves the import alert should be lifted without delay,” added Haddow.

The Moeldoko letter of September 29, 2023, replaced previous calls by growers and processors – including the “Binagraha Charter” that was a statement by only private parties – with a strong commitment from the Indonesian government to put enforceable standards in place for all kratom raw material exports. The AKA fully supports Dr. Moeldoko’s proposal that replaces all prior commitments by private parties to quality standards for kratom exports from Indonesia.

Two kratom processor groups submitted a report to Dr. Moeldoko that called for the temporary stop to all kratom exports to the United States on the false premise the AKA is engaged in “direct transactions from [kratom] farmers.” The report outlined numerous complaints about the current trading of kratom that it based entirely on the untrue claims that the AKA is somehow involved in kratom purchases and marketing.

“The deliberately false claims by business owners in Indonesia who seek to monopolize kratom exports to the United States harms every kratom farmer in Indonesia,” Haddow stated. “The AKA

has never engaged in any sales transaction in purchasing kratom from a farmer or processor, and AKA has never sold any kratom to a manufacturer. The AKA has always encouraged kratom trade between kratom processors in Indonesia committed to quality standards and American vendors where testing for contaminants is the core principle, so consumers are protected.”

The AKA has consistently advocated for kratom processors to adopt standards for kratom raw materials to meet or exceed FDA standards for wholesomeness and quality. The report issued by KOPRABUH and PPHI was riddled with inaccurate conclusions, unsupported allegations, and completely false assumptions.

“There is not a single conclusion promoted by this report that can be relied upon by anyone in Indonesia or the United States,” Haddow commented. “The economic self-interest of the two groups who produced this baseless report, and who appear to be committed to completely control all kratom exports from Indonesia for their own economic advantage, directly harms the farmers and their families who rely solely on kratom harvesting for their livelihood.”

“Every agreement the AKA has promoted in Indonesia seeks to put processes in place to assure only contaminant free kratom is exported, and that farmers are protected from unfair and exploitive price gouging by brokers or processors both in Indonesia and the U.S.,” Haddow concluded. “Dr. Moeldoko took the needed step to establish clear product standards that will be enforced by the government in his petition to remove the import alert by assuring the FDA all kratom exported from Indonesia will meet FDA standards. The AKA was proud to work with Dr. Moeldoko to put those standards in place with the full commitment of the Indonesian government to implement those requirements for all kratom exports to the U.S.”

ABOUT AKA

The American Kratom Association (AKA), a consumer-based, nonprofit organization, focuses on setting the record straight about kratom and gives a voice to those who are suffering by protecting their rights to possess and consume safe and natural kratom. AKA represents millions of Americans, each of whom has a unique story to tell about the virtues of kratom and its positive effects on their lives.

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