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**NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS
IN THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SPHERE**
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**THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMENTED THE
POSSIBILITY OF LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IN KAZAKHSTAN**

The question of the possibility of legalizing the use of marijuana periodically arises in Kazakhstan, but the Ministry of the Interior is against it, said Vice Minister of the MIA Rashid Zhakupov.

"We occasionally have this question - on the legalization of the drug, marijuana of the cannabis group, but we are of the opinion that this is probably not the right way. My personal position is that one should not legalize any drugs, "he said" Kursiv "on April 5. According to him, medical studies demonstrate harming the human body not only hard but also soft drugs.

"There are medical studies that lead to the conclusion that drugs are harmful to human health, whether they are light or heavy drugs. Just the effects of light and hard drugs are probably different. Therefore, if we proceed from the assumption that it is in any way harmful, I think it is not entirely correct to legalize (the use of marijuana in small doses for non-medical purposes), "said Zhakupov.

According to him, law enforcement practice has now been established when people who have used drugs are punished and have indicated that they have done this in a public place, while those who have been convicted of using drugs and have indicated that they have done this at home are exempt from responsibility.

"From the very beginning, the Ministry is in the position that, in general, there should be responsibility for non-medical drug use. According to our legislation, it is written only in a public place, that is, at home you can smoke (marijuana), if you are not caught with some amount of drugs, for which you can be charged for possession. At the same time, drugs should not be used on the street or in another public place, "said the vice minister, suggesting that there should be administrative responsibility simply for any use of drugs regardless of place.

"At the same time, we propose to transfer as earlier into the Administrative Code and establish administrative responsibility for the acquisition and possession of drugs in insignificant amounts, as it was earlier within the threshold that was established for administrative liability. We have a summary table, in which a small, large and especially large amount of narcotic substances is established, which was criminalized under the 1997 Criminal Code, so we suggest returning to (this) practice again, "Zhakupov said.

According to him, earlier for 10 grams of marijuana they were brought to administrative responsibility, while now they are brought to criminal liability for this.

"That is, today we do not have a lower limit that would distinguish between criminal and administrative responsibility," he concluded.

Recall that in recent years the use of marijuana in small doses has been legalized in Canada and some US states, which has led to an increase in the attractiveness of the shares of the respective companies.

The bill, which contains amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan on drug abuse issues, was considered on April 5 at a meeting of the interdepartmental commission on legislative activity issues chaired by the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan Marat Beketaev.

"The proposed changes and additions to some articles of the Republic of Kazakhstan Criminal Code carry a mitigation of sanctions, expansion of items withdrawn from free circulation, exclusion of certain acts from the category of criminal offenses with their transfer to the category of administrative offenses, differentiation of offenses by the degree of their public danger," said the Majilis deputy of the Republic of Kazakhstan Parliament Magerram Magerramov, presenting the draft law initiated by the deputies "On introduction of changes and additions to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan and some RK legal provisions".

In particular, it is proposed to amend Article 296 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

"In part one, of the second Article 296 (CC RK) "Illegal handling of narcotic, psychotropic substances, their analogues, precursors without the purpose of sale" we propose to exclude them from the Criminal Code with their transfer into the Code of Administrative Offences. Practice has shown that with the introduction of drug offenses in the Criminal Code in 2015, there was a decrease in the effectiveness of drug abuse prevention, as well as a reduction in criminal prosecution. At the same time, the number of drug addicts is not reduced," said the deputy.

He recalled that until 2015, the first and second parts of this article of the Criminal Code provided for administrative responsibility.

It is also proposed to change the sanctions in the first part of Article 187 of the Criminal Code of the RK "for petty theft, committed insignificantly, in the direction of mitigation". Currently, a fine of up to 80 monthly calculation indices is provided for the act under the first part of this article.

"Practice has shown that a criminal offense under Article 187 causes damage in a much smaller amount than the fine imposed by the court. In this regard, we propose to make changes in the part of the sentence in the multiplicity of the damage caused and to determine it by a fine of ten times the amount of the damage," he said.

At the same time, the interdepartmental commission has not yet made a decision, since the Prosecutor General's Office has been developing a draft law, which proposes to introduce about 200 amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan since last year.

<https://kursiv.kz/news/obschestvo/2019-04/v-mvd-prokomentirovali-vozmozhnost-legalizacii-marikhuany-v-kazakhstane>

ON OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI-LANKA

REGNUM THE PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA INTENDS TO TIGHTEN THE ANTI-DRUG LAW

SHRI-JAYAVARDENEPURA-KOTTE, 5 April 2019 - REGNUM. Sri Lankan President Mathripala Siriessen said during an official meeting with government officials on the development of a new law project on drug control and crime control those involved in the importation, sale and possession of illicit drugs would be subject to the strictest punitive measures.

According to Colombo Page, a Sri Lanka news agency, the meeting focused on issues related to delays in drug lawsuits. In addition, special attention was paid to delays in the publication of the government's analytical department's reports on progress in combating drug trafficking. The main reason for the lack of effectiveness in the department's work was the lack of qualified staff. The meeting also discussed prison conditions and amendments to the law on poisons, opiates and dangerous medicines.

As a reminder that Mathripala Siriessen said at a press conference on 3rd of April that drug trafficking can significantly undermine the state structure of Sri Lanka and endanger the lives and health of its citizens. That is why, according to the President, the imposition of the death penalty is a necessary measure. In addition, the non-governmental organization Human Rights Watch (HRW), which monitors human rights and citizens' rights around the world, has issued a statement of concern about Mathripala Siriessen's intention to lift the moratorium on the death penalty, which has been in place for the past 43 years.

<https://regnum.ru/news/2606031.html>.

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