

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 2A
RUANGAN : LOKAL

PENUMPANG MS WESTERDAM POSITIF

'Mereka uji secara rambang'



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Pelajara

Ujian ulangan pengesahan Covid-19 dilakukan lewat malam kelmarin terhadap seorang wanita warga emas Amerika Syarikat (AS) didapati positif virus itu.

Ini sekali gus menyangkal keputusan ujian Kementerian Kesihatan Kemboja bahawa tiada penumpang

kapal persiaran mewah positif ketika pemeriksaan dijalankan hasil kerjasama Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) dan Pusat Kawalan dan Pencegahan Wabak AS.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail yang juga Pengurusi Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Pusat (JPBP) berkata, ujian Covid-19 dijalankan ke atas wanita AS berusia 83 tahun itu tetap mendapat keputusan positif.

"Wanita itu dan suaminya berusia 85 tahun menjalani ujian ulangan lewat malam tadi (kelmarin) dan keputusan yang sama diperoleh iaitu positif bagi isteri dan negatif bagi suaminya.

"Kita tidaklah mahu mempertikaikan. Tetapi apa yang kita buat, apabila sampai kepada kita... kita jagalah."

"Daripada segi Kemboja, mereka sudah buat apa yang mereka rasa, kita buat apa yang kita perlu (ujian)."

"Mereka hanya lakukan ujian rambang terhadap 20 penumpang, saya rasa kurang daripada 10 peratus (penumpang)," katanya pada sidang media selepas mempergerakkan Mesyuarat Khas Jawatankuasa Tertinggi berhubung Penyakit Covid-19 di sini,

semalam.

Terdahulu kelmarin, pelancang wanita warga emas dari AS dikesan positif Covid-19 menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes positif virus korona itu dilaporkan di Malaysia setakat hari ini adalah sebanyak 22 kes.

Wanita berusia 83 tahun itu seorang daripada penumpang kapal persiaran MS Westerdam yang membawa 2,257 individu membabitkan 1,455 penumpang dan 802 krew.

Kapal persiaran itu berlabuh di Kemboja

pada 13 Februari lalu.

Semua penumpang dan anak kapal dibenarkan pulang ke negara masing-masing oleh kerajaan Kemboja selepas memaklumkan bahawa saringan kesihatan sudah dijalankan ke atas mereka.

"Seramai 145 penumpang kapal persiaran itu mengambil penerbangan ke Malaysia pada 14 Februari," kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah kelmarin.

Wanita warga emas itu dan suaminya dikesan bergejala sebaik tiba di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA).

"Ujian saringan pengesahan Covid-19 dijalankan oleh Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan

Malaysia (IMR) dan wanita itu disahkan positif pada 15 Februari manakala suaminya negatif," katanya.

Susulan itu, semalam, pengendali kapal persiaran MS Westerdam dilaporkan dalam Reuters meminta ujian saringan pengesahan perlu dijalankan terhadap pelancang wanita AS itu bagi memastikan status sebenar selain pihak berkuasa Kemboja turut mahukan penjelasan sama dari Malaysia.



APAL persiaran MS Westerdam berlabuh di Kemboja pada 13 Februari lalu.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

6 penumpang Westerdam disah negatif jangkitan

Kapal persiaran dari atau transit di China tak dibenar masuk Malaysia

Oleh Rafidah Mat Ruzki,
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Putrajaya: Kerajaan tidak membenarkan penumpang semua kapal persiaran yang berlepas dari China untuk masuki negara ini.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, berkata selain itu, baki penumpang kapal persiaran Westerdam yang kini berada di Kemboja juga tidak dibenarkan memasuki Malaysia selepas mengambil kira mereka adalah kontak rapat dengan kes yang disahkan positif coronavirus baharu (COVID-19) sebelum ini.

Katanya, enam daripada 143 penumpang kapal persiaran Westerdam itu yang melepas saringan juga dikehendaki menjalani ujian pengesanan COVID-19.

Bagaimanapun, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, dalam satu kenyataan media malam tadi, mengesahkan enam penumpang kapal persiaran terbatik yang kini berada di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) negatif jangkitan COVID-19.

Katanya, keputusan ujian pengesanan COVID-19 keenam-enamnya diperoleh daripada Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR), petang semalam.

Beliau berkata, enam penumpang itu masing-masing empat warga Amerika Syarikat (AS), manakala bakinya ialah rakyat Belanda.



Dr Wan Azizah ketika sidang media selepas mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Khas mengenai COVID-19 di Putrajaya, semalam. (Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah/BH)

"Mereka kini (malam tadi) berada di KLIA untuk menaiki penerbangan selanjutnya dan berada dalam keadaan sihat.

"Pihak kuditiaan berkenaan sudah dimaklumkan mengenai keputusan ujian ini dan mereka akan dibenarkan untuk menaiki penerbangan bagi meneruskan perjalanan ke destinasi masing-masing," katanya.

Dr Wan Azizah berkata, seramai 137 penumpang lain yang melepas saringan sudah meneruskan perjalanan.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Khas berhubung COVID-19, di Bencana Pusat (JPBP) berkata, selepas mengesahkan terdapat satu kes positif yang membabitkan penumpang kapal persiaran berkenaan, aktiviti pengesanan kontak rapat sudah dilaksanakan serta-merta.

"Aktiviti berkenaan membabitkan komunikasi di peringkat Institut Kesihatan dan Pemulihan (IHR) Focal Point Malaysia dengan National IHR Focal Points negara masing-masing.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : LOKAL

DUA bas tiba di sisi kapal persiaran Diamond Princess yang berlabuh di Daikaku Pier Cruise Terminal di Yokohama, Jepun. Setakat ini, seramai 355 penumpang kapal berkenaan disahkan dijangkiti virus Covid-19.



Larang masuk negara

Kapal persiaran berlepas, transit dari China ditegah singgah Malaysia



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Putrajaya

Keputusan tegas diam-bil apabila kerajaan Malaysia melarang semua kapal persiaran yang berlepas atau transit dari China memasuki negara ini.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Wan Dr Azi-

zah Wan Ismail berkata, selain itu baki penumpang kapal persiaran MS Westerdam yang kini berada di Kemboja juga tidak dibenarkan memasuki Malaysia selepas mengambil kira penumpang berkenaan adalah kontak rapat pelancang wanita Amerika Syarikat (AS) yang disahkan positif Covid-19, semalam.

Beliau berkata, keputusan untuk tidak membenarkan kapal persiaran dari atau transit di China untuk memasuki negara ini dibuat selepas perjumpaan dengan Perdana Menteri, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yang diadakan semalam.

"Enam penumpang yang menunggu penerbangan selanjutnya akan menjalani ujian pengesan Covid-19.

"Sekiranya ujian disahkan negatif, penumpang itu akan dibenarkan meneruskan perjalanan. Namun, sekiranya didapati positif, penumpang itu akan dibawa ke hospital bagi pemantauan kesihatan selanjutnya," katanya.

Beliau yang juga Pengurus Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Pusat (JPBP) berkata demikian dalam sidang media selepas mempergerusikan Mesyuarat Khas Jawatankuasa Tertinggi berhubung Penyakit Covid-19 di sini, semalam.

Hadir sama dalam mesyuarat berkenaan ialah Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Datuk Seri Mohd Zuki Ali; Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad; Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan,

Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah; Ketua Pengarah Nadma, Datuk Mohtar Mohd Abd Rahman dan Ketua Pengarah Imigresen, Datuk Khairul Dzaimee Daud.

Wan Azizah berkata, seramai 137 penumpang lain yang melepassi saringan sudah meneruskan perjalanan.

Terdahulu, katanya, semua penumpang itu tiba di negara ini jam 7 malam 14 Februari lalu dengan penerbangan sewa khas Malaysia Airlines Berhad (Malaysia Airlines).

"Selepas mengesan ada satu kes positif yang membabitkan penumpang kapal persiaran berkenaan, aktiviti pengesanan kontak rapat dilaksanakan serta-mer-ta," katanya.

MAS batal tiga penerbangan sewa khas

Putrajaya: Syarikat penerbangan, Malaysia Airlines Berhad (MAS) membatal-ban baki tiga lagi penerbangan sewa khas untuk membawa keluar warga Amerika Syarikat (AS) dari Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Sihanoukville, Kemboja susulan seorang penumpang kapal persiaran MS Westerdam disahkan positif Covid-19, semalam.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail berkata, Holland America Line sebelum ini menyewa pesawat khas untuk membawa sebahagian daripada penumpang kapal persiaran itu ke pelbagai destinasi akhir mereka melalui transit Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) pada 14 Februari jam 7 malam.

Katanya, mengikut pe-

rancangan, MAS akan menyediakan empat penerbangan sewa khas bermula 14 Februari lalu hingga hari ini.

"Setakat ini hanya satu penerbangan sewa khas yang membawa 145 penumpang mendarat di KLIA pada 14 Februari jam 7 malam.

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) memaklumkan kepada MAS ber-

kenaan kes positif hasil dari pida ujian yang dijalankan.

"Sehubungan itu, penumpang lain pesawat itu dianggap kontak rapat," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Wan Azizah berkata, berdasarkan keputusan itu, MAS membatalkan baki penerbangan sewa khas ditempah Holland America Line.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : ANCAMAN COVID-19 DI CHINA

Malaysia sekat kapal persiaran

Susulan seorang penumpang kapal didapati positif Covid-19

Oleh NURHIDAYAH HAIRON

PUTRAJAYA

Malaysia tidak akan membenarkan kapal persiaran yang berlepas atau transit dari pelabuhan di China memasuki negara ini sebagai langkah mengekang penularan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19).

“Susulan kes baruai ia itu salah seorang penumpang kapal persiaran *MS Westerdam* berusia 83 tahun yang juga warganegara Amerika Syarikat (AS) dikesan positif virus tersebut.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail berkata, baki penumpang kapal persiaran itu yang masih berada di Kemboja juga tidak akan dibenarkan memasuki Malaysia dengan mengambil kira semua penumpang kapal persiaran tersebut adalah kontak rapat dengan kes disahkan positif tersebut.

“Sepututnya Malaysia Airlines (MAS) menyediakan empat penerbangan pesawat yang disewa khas Syarikat Kapal Persiaran Hollan American Line bermula 14 Februari 2020 sehingga 16 Februari 2020.

“Setakat ini hanya penerbangan sewa khas (MH8763) yang membawa 145 orang penumpang telah mendarat di Lapangan Terbang Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) pada jam 7 petang, 14 Februari lalu dan kes positif (Covid-19) terbaru itu dikesan.

“Susulan itu MAS akan membatalkan baki penerbangan pesawat sewa khas, mengambil kira penumpang-



DR WAN AZIZAH

penumpang lain pesawat tersebut dianggap kontak rapat,” katanya pada sidang media di sini semalam.

Kapal persiaran *MS Westerdam* yang membawa 2,257 orang yang terdiri daripada 1,455 penumpang dan 802 kru telah berlabuh di Kemboja pada 13 Februari lalu setelah tidak dibenarkan berlabuh di beberapa negara.

Kapal persiaran tersebut telah berlabuh di Hong Kong sehari sebelum memulakan perjalanan selama 14 hari pada 1 Februari lalu dalam program East Asia Cruise.

Susulan itu, Syarikat Kapal Persiaran Hollan American Line menyewa pesawat MAS untuk membawa sebahagian penumpang kapal persiaran tersebut daripada Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Sihanoukville, Kemboja ke pelbagai destinasi akhir penumpang melalui KLIA.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Wan Azizah berkata, susulan kes positif melibatkan penumpang dalam penerbangan sewa khas tersebut, aktiviti pengesanan kontak rapat telah dilaksanakan dengan serta-merta.

Sementara itu, dalam perkembangan terbaru Covid-19, Kementerian Kesihatan mengesahkan satu kes melibatkan seorang wanita warga China yang sebelum ini dirawat di Hospital Permat, Johor Bahru, telah sembuh sepenuhnya dan dibenarkan pulang kelmarin.

Dr Wan Azizah berkata, tiada kes baharu dilaporkan semalam menjadikan jumlah kes Covid-19 yang masih menerima rawatan di wad adalah seramai 14 orang dan jumlah kes yang telah discay adalah seramai lapan orang.

“Bagi lapan kes yang telah discay, mereka telah menjalani ujian pengesanan ulangan Covid-19 dan didapati negatif sebanyak dua kali berturut-turut,” katanya.

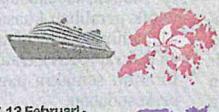
Kronologi Pelayaran Kapal *MS Westerdam*

INFOGRAPHIC: EPIC/SINAR HARIAN

16 Januari - Mermulakan pelayaran pada 16 Januari dari Singapura. Sepatutnya singgah di Jepun, Taiwan, Guam, Filipina dan Thailand tetapi telah ditolak.



31 Januari - Singgah di Hong Kong



13 Februari - Kapal *MS Westerdam* tiba di bandar pelabuhan Kemboja, Sihanoukville.



14 Februari - Seramai 145 penumpang kapal persiaran itu mengambil penerbangan MAS dan tiba di Malaysia.



INFO KAPAL

- Kapal persiaran yang membawa 1,544 penumpang dan 802 anak kapal.

Syarikat pengendali *MS Westerdam* ialah Holland America.

- Kapal dilancarkan pada 16 Julai 2003

- Panjang kapal: 285 meter

- Kelajuan: 24 knots (44 kilometer sejam)

15 Februari - Kementerian Kesihatan mengesahkan seorang penumpang wanita berusia 83 tahun disahkan positif Covid-19



Ujian ulangan ke atas warga AS masih positif

PUTRAJAYA - Keputusan bagi ujian ulangan koronavirus (Covid-19) ke atas pasangan suami isteri warganegara Amerika Syarikat (AS) yang bergejala masih sama iaitu isteri positif dan suaminya pula negatif.

Keputusan itu sekali gus menyangkal keputusan ujian Kementerian Kesihatan Kemboja bahawa tiada penumpang positif ketika pemeriksaan dijalankan hasil kerjasama Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) dan Pusat Kawalan dan Pencegahan Wabak AS.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail berkata, ujian ulangan ke atas wanita AS berusia 83 tahun dan suaminya 85 tahun itu dilakukan lewat malam kelmarin.

“Keputusan ujian ulangan masih sama iaitu positif bagi isteri dan nega-

tif bagi suaminya.

“Kita tidaklah mahu mempertikaikan. Tetapi apa yang kita buat, apabila sampai kepada kita... kita jagalah.

“Dari segi Kemboja, mereka sudah buat apa yang mereka rasa, kita buat apa yang kita perlu (ujian). Mereka hanya lakukan ujian rambang terhadap 20 penumpang, saya rasa kurang daripada 10 peratus (penumpang),” katanya di sini semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, 143 penumpang telah melepassi saringan dan tidak bergejala yang mana 137 daripadanya telah meneruskan perjalanan ke destinasi masing-masing.

“Baki enam orang masih menunggu penerbangan sambungan ke destinasi masing-masing dan akan menjalani ujian pengesanan Covid-19,” katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : STORY OF THE DAY/NEWS

Cruise ships coming from China banned

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has imposed a temporary ban on international cruise ships that departed or transited from any port in China.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said following the detection of one case of Covid-19 among MS *Westerdam* cruise ship passengers, who arrived in Cambodia on Feb 13 and arrived by flight at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) a day later, close contact detection was undertaken immediately.

The detection, she said, involved communication between Malaysia's International Health Regulations (IHR) Focal Point with the National IHR Focal Points of other countries involved.

Through this communication, she said, brief information on each of the passengers was channelled to each National IHR Focal Point countries.

The information will be used by health ministries to follow and track passengers as soon as they arrive at their destinations.

Communication with the National IHR Focal Points of Cambodia was also carried out.

"This is to enable control and prevention measures to be taken by the country in which the cruise liner docked."

"The Malaysian government will continue to strengthen its preparedness and response activities to combat the spread of Covid-19," she said after chairing the Disaster Management High-Level Committee meeting here yesterday.

MS *Westerdam* had docked in Hong Kong a day before embarking on a 14-day East Asia cruise on Feb 1.

However, it was denied docking by Japan, the Philippines and Thailand after a few passengers of another cruise ship, *Diamond Princess*, which had been berthing in Japan, tested positive for Covid-19.

The ship was later allowed to anchor in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, on Feb 13.

The cruise liner company had chartered Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flights to ferry a part of the ship's passengers from Sihanoukville International Airport to various destinations via KLIA.

MAS was to provide four flights from Feb 14 to 16.

However, after it was informed of the confirmed case, MAS cancelled the remaining chartered flights.

One MAS flight with 145 passengers, however, made it to Kuala Lumpur.

Two of the passengers, an American woman and her husband, were detected to be unwell and taken to Sungai Buloh Hospital.

Dr Wan Azizah said retests on Saturday showed that the woman was infected with Covid-19.

"Her husband tested negative for the virus."

"However, he is receiving treatment for bacterial infection."

She said all 145 airline passengers were screened.

Of the 143 given the green light, 137 had left the country, while six more were waiting for connecting flights to their destinations.

Dr Wan Azizah said the remaining passengers of MS *Westerdam* in Cambodia had been prohibited from entering Malaysia.

The decision, she said, was made considering all passengers had been in close contact with the confirmed case.

"The six passengers waiting for their next flight will undergo the Covid-19 detection test."

"If the results are negative, the passengers will be allowed to continue their journey."

"Otherwise, they will be taken to the hospital for checks."

In a related development, Dr Wan Azizah said a 59-year-old woman, the 15th Covid-19 case in Malaysia, had recovered and was discharged yesterday.

The woman from Wuhan, China, arrived in Johor from Singapore on Jan 24 with her husband, son and daughter-in-law.

She was treated at Permai Hospital in Johor Baru.

Dr Wan Azizah said there were no new reported cases yesterday, bringing the total number of patients receiving treatment to 14 and total number of cases discharged to eight.

"For the eight cases that were discharged, they underwent Covid-19 detection tests and tested negative twice."



Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NATION

Hospital instalment plan approved

Eligible patients in third class wards can settle their bills in three payments

By SARBAN SINGH
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SEREMBAN: Eligible patients admitted in third class wards at government hospitals are now allowed to settle their medical bills in three instalments.

Health Ministry deputy secretary-general Dr Uzailee Abdul Latif said this privilege would only be for those who truly deserved it.

"We have patients who can afford to pay but are not able to make lump sum payments."

"So these patients will be allowed to make payments in three instalments," he said in a directive.

However, Dr Uzailee said approval would only be considered on a case-to-case basis.

Malaysians warded in the third class are only charged a maximum of RM500 for treatment.

It cannot be immediately established how much locals owe the ministry in unpaid bills but it is believed to run into tens of millions of ringgit.

Dr Uzailee said some government hospitals already allowed some patients to pay in instalments but there was no standard procedure.

"We need to streamline this to make it easier for our officers to determine how much these patients

owe the government.

"Such a move will also allow us to prepare our financial reports with more accuracy as we will know how much is owed to us," he said.

A set of guidelines has also been issued to all state health departments and government hospitals on the latest directive.

Under the Fees (Medical) Order 1982, poor patients warded in third class can apply for waivers and be

exempt from paying their medical bill.

They can also ask for a discount.

Under the new guidelines, those allowed to pay in three instalments must pay 40% of the bill in the first payment.

The second and third instalments will be 30% respectively.

Dr Uzailee said all payments must be settled within three months after the bill was issued to the patient.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

AirAsia to carry out cleaning, disinfection procedures

JAYA: Airlines are putting in place measures to ensure the health and safety of passengers in view of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) threat.

Low-cost carrier AirAsia said its aircraft go through a regular disinfection procedure and that all cleaning, sanitising and disinfecting products used have been approved by the public health authority and

aircraft manufacturer.

"It takes approximately two hours to complete the procedure that is coordinated by the AirAsia Maintenance operation controller and performed by a cleaning team of five to six people," it said in a statement.

"Protective gear such as face masks and surgical gloves have also been provided to all ground and cabin crew."

Among the steps taken are all aircraft equipment and furnishings are disinfected with approved chemicals. Sprayers are also used to apply the disinfectant chemical.

"The staff clean and dry the surface with water and cloth. If required, the aircraft will be ventilated. Any clinical waste will be managed as per standard clinical hazardous waste procedures," it added.

Missing crew raises alarm

Authorities on high-alert after discovery of 'ghost' ships from China with no occupants on board

BY CHARLES RAMENDRAN
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LABUAN: Did an unknown number of Chinese nationals, fearing the novel coronavirus in their homeland, slip into Malaysia undetected via the shores of Labuan?

Or could they just be fishing boats that had delivered their catch in Sabah and most of its crew had gone ashore for some rest and recreation?

Whatever the scenario, and with no records available, Malaysian authorities are scrambling to uncover the mystery behind the "ghost" ships, following the discovery of four large Chinese boats resembling trawlers about 650 metres from

the Asian Supply Base Jetty on Saturday at 11.30am.

Except for two crew members, there were no occupants on board the vessels, which were anchored side by side.

The Chinese crew members, both aged 55, were arrested by the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA). It is learnt the MMEA had spotted the vessels during its routine patrols before taking action.

Sources said it was too early to say if there were other foreigners on board the vessels, but stressed that it was not possible that merely two crew members had steered four boats into Malaysian waters.

The discovery has also led to the intervention of the Health Department and

the National Security Council, who are investigating the case with the MMEA.

Sources also said that investigators are waiting for translators to assist them in interrogating the Chinese crewmen.

MMEA (Labuan zone) director Maritime Commander Nor Bakri Abu Bakar said yesterday the vessels were suspected to have breached local laws by mooring in Malaysian waters without permission from the director of the Marine Department of Malaysia.

He said under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, the offence carries a fine of RM100,000 or a jail term of up to two years, or both.

"The four vessels were being guarded by two crew members, who are both Chinese nationals. We warn the maritime community that MMEA will not compromise with those who carry out activities that breach Malaysian laws. We will continue to step up surveillances and enforcement from time to time," he said.

Cruise ships from China barred, MS Westerdam passengers blocked

PETALING JAYA: The government has blocked all passengers of the *Westerdam* cruise ship from stepping into Malaysia.

This comes after an 83-year-old American woman, a passenger of the vessel, flew into Malaysia and tested positive for Covid-19.

The woman and her husband (who tested negative), are being monitored at the Sungai Buloh Hospital.

They were among 145 passengers who flew into Kuala Lumpur on Friday after the cruise ship received the green light to dock in Cambodia, after being turned away by various countries earlier.

"The remaining passengers on the *Westerdam* cruise ship, who are still in Cambodia, will not be

allowed into Malaysia as the passengers are assumed to have been in close contact with the 'case', which has been confirmed positive," said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail at a press conference yesterday.

She said a Holland-American cruise line company had chartered a Malaysia Airlines flight to ferry a group from the cruise ship to Malaysia.

The airline scheduled four flights, from Feb 14 to 16, to accommodate the charter.

But only one - MH8763 - carrying 145 passengers, including the 83-year-old woman and her husband, arrived here.

"All 145 passengers who were onboard that flight were screened, two of them showed symptoms on

the thermal scanner and were taken to the Sungai Buloh Hospital for further tests," she said.

The health ministry has informed Malaysia Airlines about the positive case, "as such, all other passengers on the flight are considered close contacts," Wan Azizah pointed out.

The airline has cancelled the three remaining chartered flights.

However, it was said that 137 of the 145 passengers who arrived here on MH8763 have boarded flights to other destinations, with six still awaiting connecting flights.

"These six will be tested for Covid-19. If they test negative, they will be allowed to continue their journey. If found positive, they will be warded at the hospital," said Wan Azizah.

SENDE MESSAGE MALAYSIA IS SAFE TO VISIT: DPM

GEORGE TOWN: Malaysians have been urged to send out a positive message that Malaysia is still a safe place to visit despite the Covid-19 infection situation. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said the start of the new year has been challenging, especially for the tourism sector. Hence, the government is drafting various strategies to help the industry. "We also need to be alert by taking self-preventive and preparedness measures as advised by the Health Ministry in dealing with the infection," she said, and advised people against spreading or believing fake news or unverified information on social media due to its negative effects such as panic and altercations. She asked the public to refer to the portal Sebenarnya.my for the latest authentic information from government sources. — Bernama

MOTAC DEVISES SCHEME TO ATTRACT TOURISTS

KUALA LUMPUR: To address negative perception on the transmission of Covid-19 and its effect on Malaysia, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (Motac) has set up a Tourism Recovery Action committee. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said. As part of the recovery strategy, Motac devised a short-term or "quick win" scheme to attract tourists from ASEAN countries to help boost the tourism industry. The DPM urged Malaysians to spend their holidays at local destinations to support the Visit Malaysia 2020 campaign and help the industry and economy. Meanwhile, Wan Azizah also expects the tourism industry to prioritise safety by improving the quality of service and ensuring adequate facilities are provided so tourist feel safe and secure when they visit Malaysia. — Bernama

Infectious diseases can be transmitted from person to person through:

Direct contact – Person-to-person via touching or exchanging of bodily fluids, even before symptoms show. Droplets spread via coughing, sneezing, or even when speaking and saliva falls onto a person.



Indirect contact – Airborne transmission. On touching contaminated objects like doorknobs, through improperly handled food and drinking water, via animal-to-person contact eg when an infected animal bites or scratches you or when you handle their waste, through insect bites as in vector-borne diseases, through soil, water and vegetation which has infectious organisms.



To prevent disease transmission:

- Wash your hands with soap and water regularly and properly.
- Use a good sanitiser that has 60% or more alcohol based.
- Minimise touching your mouth or nose with your fingers.
- Avoid persons who are ill.
- Wear disposable gloves if in contact with blood and faeces.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Teach kids not to put their hands or objects in their mouths.
- Sanitise children's toys and play areas.
- Keep good hygiene at all times, especially when handling F&B.
- Eat properly cooked meat.
- Store food at proper temperature.
- Separate raw meat from other produce and use different preparation surfaces when preparing food.
- Don't touch animals when in the wild.
- Don't touch sick animals or dead carcasses.
- Stay up to date on vaccinations.



Infectious diseases are caused by types of bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi around us. Understand the transmission process, practice good hygiene and be responsible in protecting yourself to help prevent the spread of illness.