

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

*Penularan coronavirus*

# Kerajaan tak sekat lawatan antara Malaysia, China

Bakal ambil tindakan jika keperluan, kepentingan mendesak

Oleh Amir Abd Hamid dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman  
bhnews@bh.com.my

**Putrajaya:** Kerajaan tidak menyekat lawatan antara Malaysia dan China susulan ancaman coronavirus (2019-nCoV), tetapi pada masa sama tidak mengalakkannya.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) mengisyitarkan coronavirus sebagai darurat kesihatan awam global, namun tiada saranan sekatan lawatan atau perdagangan dengan China atau negara lain yang terbatas.

"Kita tidak menggalakkan (lawatan antara Malaysia, China), tetapi tidak pula kita sekat. Bagaimanapun, sebaik keperluan dan kepentingan itu mendesak, kita akan lakukan tindakan," katanya pada sidang media di sini, semalam.

Yang hadir sama, Ketua Penggarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor



Dr Dzulkefly pada sidang media mengenai perkembangan terkini penularan 2019-nCoV di Kementerian Kesihatan, Putrajaya, semalam. Yang turut hadir, Dr Noor Hisham dan Timbalan Ketua Penggarah Kesihatan (Perubatan) Datuk Dr Rohaizat Yon (kiri).

(Foto BERNAMA)

Hisham Abdullah; Timbalan Ketua Penggarah Kesihatan (Perubatan), Datuk Dr Rohaizat Yon dan Pengarah Kawalan Penyakit Kementerian Kesihatan, Dr Norhayati Rusli.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, WHO memutuskan kejadian jangkitan 2019-nCoV memenuhi kriteria *Public Health Emergency of International Concern* (PHEIC), iaitu kecemasan global.

"Justeru, WHO memutuskan negara anggota menjalankan pemantauan aktif, pengesanan awal, pengurusan tes dan isolasi,

pengurusan kontak rapat dan pencegahan penularan jangkitan 2019-nCoV.

"WHO menekankan kepentingan perkongsian maldumat terkini jangkitan 2019-nCoV dan memaklumkan tiada sekatan lawatan atau perdagangan dengan China atau negara terlibat," katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, kementeriannya tidak menerima sebarang permintaan atau maklumat mengenai China yang mahu membawa pulang lapan warganya yang kini dikuarantin kerana positif coronavirus.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, pihaknya ada mendengar mengenai berita itu, namun belum ada sebarang permohonan diterima. "Sekiranya ada, Kementerian

Luar akan memaklumkan kepada pihak kami. Saya ada dengar (China mahu bawa pulang warganya), tetapi tidak dapat mengesahkannya kerana Kementerian Kesihatan tidak diberitahu mengenai perkara itu. Jika ada, kita akan maklumkan," katanya.

Terdahulu, media melaporkan China menghantar dua pesawat ke Malaysia dan Thailand bagi membawa semua warganya yang dikuarantin di negara ini kerana dijangkiti coronavirus.

Menurut Pentadbiran Penerbangan Awam China (CAAC), perbangunan Xiamen Airlines akan mengambil warga China dari Kota Kinabalu.

**AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN****MUKA SURAT : 6****RUANGAN : ANCAMAN KORONAVIRUS DI CHINA**

## Tiada permintaan dari China bawa pulang lapan rakyat positif koronavirus

**PUTRAJAYA** - Malaysia belum menerima sebarang permintaan daripada China untuk membawa pulang lapan rakyat negara itu yang positif koronavirus.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, sekiranya terdapat permintaan dari negara itu, Kementerian Luar Negeri menerusi Wisma Putra akan memaklumkannya.

"Setakat ini saya tidak diberitahu dan belum ada permintaan. Sekiranya ada Wisma Putra akan memaklumkannya kepada media," kata beliau pada sidang akhbar di Putrajaya di sini semalam mengenai situasi terkini jangkitan koronavirus.



Dr Dzulkefly pada sidang akhbar di Putrajaya semalam mengenai situasi terkini jangkitan koronavirus.

Turut hadir, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Sebelum ini, Pentadbiran

Awam Penerbangan China (CAAC) menerusi laman sesawangnya mengumumkan telah menghantar dua pener-

bangan Xiamen Airlines untuk membawa pulang rakyatnya di Thailand dan Sabah, Malaysia.

Menyentuh mengenai perkembangan semasa koronavirus, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, tiada kes terbaharu rakyat Malaysia dijangkiti wabak berkenaan setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam.

"Kes positif kekal lapan orang melibatkan kesemua warga China dan 17 individu lagi masih menunggu keputusan ujian makmal," katanya.

Ketika ditanya pemberita, beliau juga bersetuju dengan Menteri Pengangkutan, Anthony Loke Siew Fook bahawa tiada keperluan untuk menyekat semua penerbangan dari China.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NATION

# Malaysia to follow WHO's lead

## Health Ministry aims to draw up more coordinated policies on virus

By LOH FOON FONG  
and DIYANA PFORDTEN  
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia will follow the World Health Organization's (WHO) lead now that the body has declared the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) a global emergency as the number and speed of infections have far surpassed Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), the 2003 epidemic.

The Health Ministry's former infectious disease national head Datuk Dr Christopher Lee said this would include travel policies and restrictions, trade and data sharing, among others – rather than every country taking unilateral and uncoordinated measures.

"Some of the local measures may be unpopular, but WHO's recommendations help give credence and credibility to these interventions taken by governments," he told *The Star*.

He said this when asked what WHO's Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) declaration would mean to Malaysia.

"The PHEIC is an extraordinary event that poses a public health risk to other states through the global spread of disease, and it potentially requires a coordinated international response," he said.

Dr Lee said there would be pressure from local groups for their governments to "do this or don't do that", and WHO's recommendation would guide governments to implement their policies.

Asked how he viewed this in the context of dengue, which causes more deaths globally, he said 2019-nCoV is a novel virus and has a droplet and contact spread that can transmit itself fast, especially in a globalised world.

"It needs urgent reaction at this point as there's no herd immunity," he added.

He said the mode of spread is not airborne but through droplets or contact.

Although 2019-nCoV has not shown itself to be as severe as SARS, he said at this juncture, asymptomatic transmission is not believed to be a large factor in viral outbreaks.

Quoting the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Dr Anthony S.



Keeping vigilant: People wearing face masks at a zebra crossing in Kuala Lumpur.

Fauci, Dr Lee said the driver of an outbreak has always been a symptomatic person.

"An epidemic is not driven by asymptomatic carriers," he said.

But Dr Lee added that this does not mean it cannot be spread from asymptomatic persons as more validation is needed.

"The question is whether someone who has no symptoms is shedding the virus actively during that period," he said.

More specific information and data is needed on the case involving a Chinese national infecting a German, he added.

But countries should focus on the information available, otherwise, all measures will be driven by fear and perceptions, he said.

Since the virus spreads through droplets, he said the infection control protocol on handling 2019-nCoV should be similar to that of SARS.

"It is not a mutation of SARS. It is a different virus but related as more than 80% of the viral genome is similar. It is also from the same family of coronavirus," he said.

The number of coronavirus cases has risen to nearly 10,000, surpassing the total number

of cases in the SARS pandemic in 2003.

The online dashboard operated by Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Systems Science and Engineering showed a total of 9,776 cases and 213 deaths of the 2019-nCoV as at 11am yesterday (Malaysian time).

The bulk of 9,658 cases are in China, with Malaysia recording eight cases so far.

With SARS, there were 8,096 cases leading to 774 deaths.

The 2019-nCoV outbreak was declared a PHEIC by WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Thursday, citing concern over the spread of the virus to countries with weaker health systems.

The announcement came after a second meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee.

"The declaration of the PHEIC should be seen in the spirit of support and appreciation for China, its people and the actions China has taken on the frontline of this outbreak, with transparency, and, it is to be hoped, with success," said WHO in its statement.

WHO believes it is still possible to interrupt the spread of the virus.

Watch the video  
[thestartv.com](http://thestartv.com)



### Global Epidemics

Cases of viral outbreaks across the globe. Data for influenza A is for 2009 and dengue is for 2019.

#### Number of cases

MERS	2,494
SARS	8,096
Wuhan coronavirus	9,776
Influenza A (H1N1)	182,166
Dengue	4,410,660

#### Deaths

Wuhan coronavirus	213
SARS	744
MERS	858
Dengue	1,835
Influenza A (H1N1)	15,174



Source: World Health Organisation (WHO), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

AKHBAR : NEWS STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS

## Registration of students from Wuhan to be postponed

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Education Ministry has decided to postpone indefinitely the registration of students from Wuhan, which is the epicentre of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak, and Hubei province at education institutions in Malaysia.

The decision was announced by Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad here yesterday several hours after the 2019-nCoV that has killed more than 200 people in China and infected more than 9,000 people around the world was designated as a global health emergency by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"The Education Ministry has decided to postpone the registration of students from Wuhan and Hubei province at all education institutions to a date that will be announced soon.

"Students from other provinces in China, however, are allowed to do so (register), but they will be monitored closely by education institutions in Malaysia.

"At the same time, members of the education community, non-academic staff and students, regardless if they are (Malaysian) citizens or non-citizens who have a history of visiting and staying in Wuhan and Hubei province, will be placed under observation and isolation orders for 14 days at their respective homes from the date of their departure. Each of them will also be issued a health alert card."

Present was Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Dr Dzulkefly said the government was working to bring home 80 Malaysians in Wuhan.

"We are in the process of getting our nationals from Wuhan. We are waiting for the latest information. We are in constant communication with all parties involved in this effort."

On Thursday night, Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah said the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) was coordinating efforts to bring home the 80 Malaysians.

He said Malaysia was on top of things in containing the spread of the coronavirus as efforts were in place prior to WHO's announcement that its spread was a public health emergency of international concern, or PHEIC.

"Although WHO recommends that tests should be performed only on those who displayed symptoms related to 2019-nCoV, the Health Ministry went a step ahead.

"Apart from conducting throat swabs to detect the presence of

the virus on all (tourists with history of visiting Wuhan and provinces in China affected by the outbreak coming into the country), the ministry also carried out tracing of contacts although they did not show any symptoms of contracting the coronavirus."

He said since China reported its first cluster of unexplained pneumonia cases in December, Malaysia, which was leading the Asean Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) network, actively engaged member nations on the situation and conducted analysis related to the virus.

"The data sharing, which included ways to respond and prevent the spread of the virus among member nations, has been carried out in real time and even way before WHO made the calls to boost efforts to contain the virus."

Asked if the ministry would advise the government to ban all flights from China, Dr Dzulkefly replied: "For now, there is no restriction of flights from China.

"We are not making decisions based only on recommendations by WHO, but instead, decisions are made after evaluating circumstances in the country.

"But if the situation compels us to do so, we will introduce additional measures in the future."

It was reported that WHO, in declaring the PHEIC, had said there was "no reason" for any of the international travel or trade restrictions announced in recent days, such as flight suspensions, border closures and quarantine for apparently healthy travellers.

Dr Dzulkefly said: "We came to such a decision after we evaluated the current circumstances. We feel that we are on top of this and we are in control."

Asked if the ministry would propose that national-level public gatherings, such as the upcoming Thaipusam, be postponed, he said the ministry would not impose such restrictions.

"We must observe our hygiene and adopt all ways to protect ourselves by wearing face masks as well as washing our hands during public gatherings."

No new cases of the coronavirus was reported in Malaysia yesterday.

The number of victims remains at eight.

They are all Chinese nationals.

Dr Dzulkefly said the patients were stable and hoped they were on course to recovery. The number of patient-under-investigation for the coronavirus still stood at 127 cases.

AKHBAR : NEWS STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEWS

NewStraitsTimes . SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020

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NEWS / Nation

## PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

# 'MEASURES TO CONTAIN CORONAVIRUS SUFFICIENT'

We've implemented what is necessary based on World Health Organisation's announcement, says deputy minister

ADIB POVERA  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**M**ALAYSIA has implemented the necessary measures to prevent the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) before the World Health Organisation's (WHO) announcement on Thursday that the outbreak constitutes an international emergency.

Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye said the ministry would look into whether there was a need to introduce additional measures to contain the outbreak.

"Malaysia is already implementing what is necessary for the Public Health Emergency of International Concern, or PHEIC (as declared by WHO).

"The ministry will review the need for additional measures daily, depending on developments surrounding the epidemic."

He was asked to comment on the move by WHO to designate the 2019-nCoV outbreak, which has killed 212 people and infected almost 10,000 people in China and abroad, as a PHEIC.

WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the declaration after chairing the International Health Regulations Committee in Geneva on Thursday.

Dr Tedros said WHO noted that there were almost 200 cases of 2019-nCoV in 18 countries outside China, including eight cases of human-to-human transmission in Germany, Japan, Vietnam and the United States.

"We don't know what sort of damage this 2019-nCoV virus could do if it were to spread in a country with a weaker health system. We must act now to help

countries prepare for that possibility. For all of these reasons, I am declaring a public health emergency of international concern over the global outbreak of 2019-nCoV."

Dr Tedros, however, said there was "no reason" for any of the international travel or trade restrictions announced in recent days, such as flight suspensions, border closures and quarantine for apparently healthy travellers.

As for Malaysia, Dr Lee said current policies to combat the 2019-nCoV outbreak would remain, including the suspension of all visa facilities for Chinese tourists from Hubei province, the epicentre of the outbreak.

"Existing policies, such as no flights from Hubei province, which includes Wuhan, as well as suspension of visas for Chinese nationals from the province, still stand," he said.

On Monday, the Prime Minister's Office announced that all visa facilities for Chinese tourists from Hubei province had been suspended.

This includes electronic travel registration and information facilities, visa-free entry, visa on arrival, e-visa and manual visa applications.

It said the decision was made due to the spike in coronavirus infections and deaths.

"Malaysia, together with Asean nations, will cooperate in fighting this epidemic," Dr Lee said, referring to a statement by the Health Sector of Asean yesterday.

The Health Sector of Asean, together with its counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea, said it had mobilised regional cooperation mechanisms to respond to the rapidly-evolving threat of the coronavirus since the first cluster of unexplained pneumonia cases was reported in



People wearing face masks at an LRT station in Kuala Lumpur. The World Health Organisation has declared the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

late December.

The mechanisms, it said, reinforced national whole-of-government efforts to enhance readiness and response measures to mitigate, if not eliminate, the threats of the coronavirus to protect the 649 million people in Asean.

"Since health officials from China first shared information on the disease, the Asean Emergency Operations Centre Network for public health emergencies (Asean EOC Network), led by Malaysia, and with the support of the Asean Secretariat, have been sharing daily situational updates.

"They also provide information on prevention, detection and response measures to Asean Senior Officials for Health Development of Asean and China, Japan and South Korea, as well as to contact points of the Asean EOC Network and the Asean Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (Asean+3 FETN)."

"This is on top of the real-time information sharing through mobile instant messaging within the Asean EOC Network, consisting of disease prevention and control officials of Asean member states," the Health Sector of Asean said.

Reuters yesterday reported that China's aviation authority had despatched two Xiamen Airlines flights to bring back Wuhan citizens to the Chinese city from Bangkok, Thailand, and Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

Wuhan, the epicentre of the fast-spreading virus, is in a lockdown as authorities try to contain the spread.

## CORONAVIRUS DECLARED INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN (PHEIC)

According to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) International Health Regulations (2005), PHEIC refers to an extraordinary public health event which is determined, under specific procedures

- to constitute a public health risk to other states through the international spread of disease, and
- to potentially require a coordinated international response.

### WHO may constitute a PHEIC based on the following criteria:

- seriousness of the public health impact of the event
- unusual or unexpected nature of the event
- potential for the event to spread internationally
- the risk that restrictions to travel or trade may result because of the event

Timely and transparent notification of events combined with a collaborative assessment of the risks by the concerned state and WHO, along with effective risk communication will reduce the potential for international disease spread and the likelihood of unilateral imposition of trade or travel restrictions by other countries.

### What does PHEIC mean?

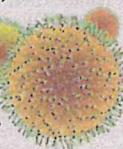
- WHO can implement non-binding but practically and politically significant measures that can address travel, trade, quarantine, screening and treatment.
- WHO can also set global standards of practice and hold countries accountable when they needlessly exceed these global standards. This is critical to ensuring the international response is evidence-based, measured and balanced to protect human health in ways that are neither over-reactive nor under-reactive.

### Past PHEIC declared

- Influenza A [H1N1] in 2009
- Polio in 2014
- Ebola in West Africa in 2014
- Zika in 2016
- Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2019

### PHEIC on Coronaviruses (Jan 31)

- Not because of what is happening in China, but because of what is happening in other countries.
- The greatest concern is the potential for the virus to spread to countries with health systems and which are ill-prepared to deal with it.
- The declaration is not a vote-of-no-confidence in China and WHO continues to have confidence in the country's capacity to control the outbreak.
- There are now 98 cases in 18 countries outside China, including eight cases of human-to-human transmission in four countries — Germany, Japan, Vietnam and the United States.



World Health Organisation

INFOGRAPHIC NST

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : LOKAL

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Sabtu 01.02.2020 | Harian Metro



Kuala Lumpur

**P**ertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO), semalam mengumumkan wabak koronavirus baru yang sudah mengakibatkan kematian 213 orang di China sebagai darurat kesihatan global.

Terkini, AFP melaporkan wabak itu sudah merebak ke 24 negara dengan 9,929 kes jangkitan.

Selain itu, penularan wabak itu menyebabkan sekatan perjalanan, penularan sentimen anti-China di beberapa tempat dan peningkatan permintaan terhadap penutup mulut dan hidung.

WHO yang berpangkalan di Geneva berkata, pengumuman itu selepas pihaknya mengadakan mesyuarat bagi membuat penilaian semula terhadap risiko wabak berkenaan.

Ketua Pengarah WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus dalam satu sidang akbar di Geneva, memuji tindak balas China, tetapi menegaskan pihaknya bimbang virus merebak ke negara yang tidak mempunyai 'sumber cukup' untuk menanganinya.

"Sebab utama pengisytiharan ini ialah bukan kerana apa yang berlaku di China, tetapi kerana apa yang berlaku di negara lain."

"Kebimbangan utama kami ialah potensi virus itu untuk merebak ke negara yang mempunyai sistem kesihatan yang lemah," katanya.

Di Malaysia, satu lagi kes koronavirus baru disahkan pada Khamis menjadikan jumlah di Malaysia seramai lapan orang.



## WHO UMUM DARURAT

*Wabak koronavirus baru sudah menyebabkan 213 kematian di China*

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, wanita terabit isteri kepada lelaki warga China yang dilaporkan positif wabak sama sebelum ini.

Menurutnya, semua kes membabitkan warga China.

"Kes terbaru ini warga China berusia 49 tahun yang dimasukkan ke wad isolasi di Hospital Permai, Johor dan dilaporkan dalam keadaan stabil," katanya.

Sebelum ini, Menteri

Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, bagi memantapkan lagi aktiviti pengesanan kes yang disyaki, kementeriannya bekerjasama dengan Kementerian Pendidikan bagi mengenal pasti pelajar atau pensyarah yang pulang bercuti dari China.

"Mereka yang dikenal pasti akan diletakkan di bawah pemantauan rumah dan diberikan Kad Amaran

Kesihatan dan kelengkapan penilaian rumah. Jika menunjukkan gejala, mereka akan dirujuk ke fasiliti kesihatan yang dikenal pasti segera," katanya.

Beliau turut memaklumkan, pihaknya dalam proses memperluas saringan suhu badan kepada semua pengembara di pintu masuk negara selepas mendapat tambahan 25 pengimbas suhu badan dan tidak hanya fokus kepada pengembara dari

China saja.

Malaysia juga sudah menggantung sementara semua kemudahan imigresen iaitu eENTRY (kemudahan tanpa visa), Visa Semasa Ketibaan, e-visa dan visa manual terhadap rakyat China dari Wuhan, Wilayah Hubei dan sekitarnya.

Kementerian Pendidikan pula menangguhan sementara pendaftaran pelajar dari bandar Wuhan dan wilayah Hubei serta

kawasan sekitarnya di semua institusi pendidikan.

Selain itu, kerajaan juga sedang membawa pulang 78 rakyat Malaysia yang berada di Wuhan dengan segera.

Terdapat 35,000 rakyat Malaysia di China di mana 25,000 daripadanya tinggal di Hong Kong, 2,500 daripadanya di Beijing manakala hanya 115 tinggal di Hubei.



KAKUTANGAN Thai Airways memaksa sut perlindungan sebelum membersihkan kabin pesawat.



PASUKAN makna mengkaji sampel pesakit yang dipercaya dijangkiti koronavirus baru di Stuttgart, Jerman.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : LOKAL

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**lokal**

SUKARELAWAN memaka suj perlindungan kehadiran membantu kuman di sekitar perumahan di Taizhou, China.



PASUKAN perubatan Tanzania mengambil suhu pelancong dari China di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kilimanjaro.



PASUKAN perubatan ketika meronda wad yang menempatkan pesakit dijangkiti koronavirus baharu di Hospital Rajiv Gandhi, Chennai, India.



PEKERJA kilang memeriksa topeng muka di Bangkok, Thailand.



ORANG ramai memakai topeng muka ketika menaiki komuter di Bangkok, Thailand.

## Tiada keputusan sekat penerbangan China

**Seremoni:** Tiada keputusan sekat ini dibuat bagi menyekat penerbangan dari China ke Malaysia di sebalik langkah Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) mengisyaratkan darurat kesihatan global.

- Menteri Pengangkutan Anthony Loke Siew Fook berkata sebarang keputusan mengenai perkara itu perlu dibuat secara bersama oleh Kabinet termasuk mengambil kira arahan daripada pihak Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

"Setakat ini kita belum sekat mana-mana penerbangan dari China.

"Apa dilaksanakan di Sabah ialah warganegara China yang terbang dari China tidak dibenarkan masuk ke Sabah, itu keputusan kabinet.

"Tetapi bagi kerajaan Persekutuan, (sekat) penerbangan di pintu-pintu masuk lain perlu dibuat bersama oleh Kabinet dan setakat ini belum ada keputusan berkenaan," katanya kepada pemberita selepas melawat pameran jajaran projek Laluan Rel Pantai Timur (ECRL) di sini, semalam.

Ditanya sama ada langkah untuk menyekat penerbangan dari China akan dipertimbang

kerajaan, Loke berkata pelbagai implikasi harus dilihat terlebih dahulu.

"Implikasi banyak, kita tidak boleh dengan mudah sekat penerbangan dari China sebab kita ada juga warganegara Malaysia di China dan warga China juga ada ramai di Malaysia. Kalau sekat (penerbangan) mereka akan terkandas di sini."

"Setakat ini pihak KKM sudah mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga bagi memeriksa tahap kesihatan penumpang dari China. Tetapi kita juga akan pantau secara dekat untuk lihat perkembangan setiap hari," kata Loke.

- Bernama

## Nafi wabak mula merebak di Perlis

**Kangar:** Kerajaan negeri Perlis menafikan wabak koronavirus baharu mula tular di negeri itu ekoran penahanan dua pelancong warga Hong Kong di Stesen Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB) Padang Besar ketika dalam perjalanan ke Thailand, semalam.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan negeri, Teh Chai Ann berkata, perkara itu disahkan selepas mendapat pengesahan dalam daripada Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) Perlis.

"Kes berkenaan tular di

Pihak JKN menggesahkan sekat ini pelancong terabit tidak dijangkiti koronavirus baharu. Sebarang maklumat terkini akan dimaklumkan dari semasa ke semasa," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini, semalam.

Teh Chai Ann

aplikasi WhatsApp mengatakan rakyat Hong Kong didapati positif koronavirus baharu ketika dalam perjalanan ke Thailand menggunakan perkhidmatan KTMB

Padang Besar.

"Namun, pihak JKN mengesahkan sekat ini pelancong terabit tidak dijangkiti koronavirus baharu. Sebarang maklumat terkini akan dimaklumkan dari semasa ke semasa," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini, semalam.

Terdahulu, gambar sebuah ambulans menunggu di perkarangan Stesen KTMB Padang Besar dan dua pelancong berusia 50-an sedang ditahan selepas disyaki positif koronavirus baharu tersebut di media sosial.

Mengulas lanjut, Teh

berkata, pihaknya menasihati penduduk di negeri ini supaya tidak panik dengan menyebarkan maklumat tidak sahih.

"Kerajaan negeri juga mengambil pendekatan serius memantau keadaan terutama di semua pintu masuk negara di Padang Besar, Wang Kelian dan Jeti Penumpang Kuala Perlis bagi mengelakkan penularan wabak koronavirus baharu ini."

"Kita juga sentiasa bekerjasama dengan JKN bagi mengetahui perkembangan semasa (koronavirus baharu) di negeri ini," katanya.