

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan coronavirus

Penyebar berita palsu akan didakwa segera

Pejabat Peguam Negara jamin tindakan sebaik selesai siasatan

Oleh Nor Azizah Mokhtar
bhnews@bharian.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Suspek yang disiasat kerana menyebarkan berita palsu berkaitan 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) akan segera didakwa di mahkamah.

Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri

Abdul Hamid Bador, berkata Pejabat Peguam Negara sudah memberi jaminan tindakan itu akan diambil sebaik polis menyelesaikan siasatan.

"Segala berita palsu, berita yang tidak bertanggung jawab yang boleh menyebabkan orang rasa takut, akan ditangani serta-merta."

"Sebaik siasatan polis selesai dan kertas siasatan dihantar kepada Pejabat Peguam Negara, mereka akan segera membuat pendakwaan ke atas suspek," katanya pada sidang media selepas Majlis Serah Terima Tugas Peguam Jeneral Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah

Narkotik (JSJN) Bukit Aman di sini, semalam.

Abdul Hamid berkata, orang ramai tidak wajar sewenang-wenangnya menyebarkan berita palsu berkaitan 2019-nCoV kerana ia adalah perbuatan yang tidak cerdik.

"Apabila perlunya mahu menjadi 'champion' (juara) dengan menyebarkan berita-beliau yang mereka sendiri tidak tahu?"

"Sebagai contoh berita palsu yang disebarluaskan mengatakan sebuah kapal membawa anak kapal dari Wuhan berlabuh di Pelabuhan Kuala Linggi, Melaka tempoh hari."

"Ini secara tidak langsung pe-

nyebar berita itu mahu mengatakan virus berkenaan sudah sampai ke sana (Kuala Linggi), maka kita perlu ambil tindakan," kata beliau.

Kelmarin, Timbalan Ketua Polis Negara, Datuk Mazlan Mansor, memaklumkan polis sudah membuka 13 kertas siasatan berhubung penyebaran khabar angin dan berita tidak sahih mengenai penularan 2019-nCoV melalui media sosial.

Katanya, tiga kertas siasatan sudah mendapat kebenaran daripada Jabatan Peguam Negara untuk pendakwaan di mahkamah.

Golongan berisiko perlu elak lawat hospital

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan menasihati orang ramai terutama golongan berisiko, supaya menghadkan lawatan ke hospital kecuali ada keperluan.

Golongan dikenal pasti berisiko termasuklah kanak-kanak, warga emas berusia 65 tahun ke atas, pesakit kronik, pesakit dengan daya ketahanan yang rendah serta wanita hamil.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata langkah itu secara tidak langsung dapat mengelang penularan jangkitan corona virus baru (2019-nCoV).

"Jika golongan ini masih perlu ke hospital, mereka dinasihatkan mengamalkan perjagaan kesihatan diri seperti mengelakkan menyentuh mata, hidung dan mulut, tanpa membiasuh tangan terlebih dahulu.

"Basuh tangan dengan kerap menggunakan air dan sabun, sekurang-kurangnya untuk tempoh 20 saat atau menggunakan hand sanitiser".

"Selain itu mereka juga perlu mengelakkan daripada mendekati pesakit yang mempunyai gejala jangkitan saluran pernafasan seperti batuk dan selsema," katanya dalam sidang media harian berhubung 2019-nCoV di kementeriannya semalam.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, mereka yang mengunjungi hospital perlu mengamalkan etika batuk dengan menutup mulut dan hidung menggunakan tisu ketika batuk atau bersin, selain perlu membiasuh tangan dengan serta merta.

"Jika mempunyai jangkitan saluran pernafasan, mereka dinasihatkan memakai topeng hidung dan mulut serta kekal jarak yang selamat iaitu sekurang-kurangnya satu meter daripada

orang lain di persekitaran," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan berasingan, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, seorang pelancong wanita dari Wuhan, China yang tiba di negara ini bersama suami, anak lelaki dan menantunya pada 21 Januari lalu menerusi Singapura, menjadi mangsa terburu dikesan positif 2019-nCoV.

Katanya, wanita berkenaan mengalami demam pada 26 Januari lalu dan hanya mengambil ubat yang dibeli anaknya di farmasi berdekatan hotel mereka di Johor Bahru.

"Beliau tidak mendapat rawatan dari mana-mana fasiliti kesihatan walaupun selepas ubat dibeli habis. Wanita berkenaan hanya ke hospital selepas pengurusan tempat penginapannya memaklumkan kepada Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) Johor Bahru iaitu pada 5 Februari lalu," katanya.

Dr Dzulkefly memaklumkan, ujian pengesanan dan pengesanan 2019-nCoV yang dijalankan ke atasnya dilaporkan positif dan kini dimasukkan ke wad isolasi Hospital Permai, Johor Bahru dan berada dalam keadaan stabil.

"Suaminya yang berusia 66 tahun juga diletakkan di wad isolasi hospital sama. Sampel juga sudah diambil dan kini menunggu keputusan makmal," katanya.

Beliau berkata, wanita itu bersama ahli keluarganya sepatutnya pulang ke China pada 4 Februari lalu dengan menaiki perniagaan dari Johor Bahru ke Guangzhou, namun disebabkan tidak sihat, wanita itu secara sukarela menangguhan perjalanan ke China.

"Hanya anak lelaki dan mantu pulang ke China pada ta-



Basuh tangan dengan kerap menggunakan air dan sabun, sekurang-kurangnya untuk tempoh 20 saat atau menggunakan 'hand sanitiser'.

Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad,
Menteri Kesihatan

rikh berkenaan. Susulan kejadian itu, pengesanan kontak sudah dibuat dan saringan kesihatan terhadap semua kakitangan penginapan berkenaan," katanya.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata sehingga jam 10 pagi semalam, jumlah kumulatif kes pesakit di bawah pemantauan (PUD) jangkitan 2019-nCoV adalah 313 orang; di mana 198 adalah rakyat tempatan, 107 warga China dan masing-masing seorang warga Australia, Korea, Jordan, Brazil, Kanada, Bangladesh, Indonesia dan Thailand.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 10A

RUANGAN : LOKAL

SEORANG LAGI

Pelancong wanita dari Wuhan berusia 59 tahun mangsa terbaru di Johor Bahru



Oleh Amir Abd Hamid
amir_hamid@mediaprima.com.my

Putrajaya

Seorang pelancong wanita dari Wuhan, China berusia 59 tahun adalah mangsa terbaru di negara ini yang dikesan positif wabak koronavirus baru (2019-nCoV).

Satu kes terbaru dilaporkan itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes meningkat kepada 15 kes setakat semalam.

Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, pertambahan satu kes dilaporkan ke Pusat Kesiasagaan dan Respons Krisis (CPRC) itu juga bermakna 10 daripada 11 rakyat China yang positif adalah dari Wuhan.

Menurutnya, seorang lagi mangsa dari Guangzhou, China, membatikkan budak perempuan sudah sembuh sepenuhnya dan dibenarkan keluar wad Hospital Sultanah Maliza, Langkawi.

Kuala Lumpur: Sekatan perjalanan ke Malaysia yang kini dikenakan ke atas pelawat China dari Wilayah Hubei termasuk Wuhan akan diperluaskan meliputi wilayah lain selepas dikenakan sekatan pergerakan keluar masuk (*lockdown*) oleh kerajaan China.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail dalam satu kenyataan malam kelmarin berkata, langkah itu diputuskan setelah mengambil kira status semasa berhubung wabak koronavirus baru.

"Jabatan Imigresen akan mengambil tindakan sekatan perjalanan sebaik sahaja kerajaan China mengisyaitarkan sesebuah wilayah di *lockdown*," katanya yang juga Pengurus Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negara.

Dr Wan Azizah berkata, kawalan sempadan negara diperketatkan dengan menambah bilangan mesin pengimbas suhu badan dan makmal mempercepat keputusan sampel.

Beliau berkata, selain hos-

menangguhkannya kerana kurang sihat.

"Namun, anak lelaki dan menantunya tetap pulang ke China pada tarikh itu.

"Pada 5 Februari, dia masih tidak sihat dan pihak Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) Johor Bahru menerima maklumat kesnya dari pengurusan penginapan sebelum dia dirujuk ke Hospital Permai untuk rawatan lanjut.

"Ujian pengesahan dan pengesahan koronavirus dijalankan ke atasnya dilaporkan positif 6 Februari," katanya.

Beliau berkata, wanita itu masih dirawat di Hospital Permai dan stabil.

Menurutnya, suami wanita itu yang berusia 66 tahun juga diletakkan di wad isolasi hospital sama.

"Bagaimanapun suami wanita itu tidak bergejala namun sampelynua sudah diambil dan menunggu keputusan makmal," katanya.



Sekat ikut 'lockdown' China

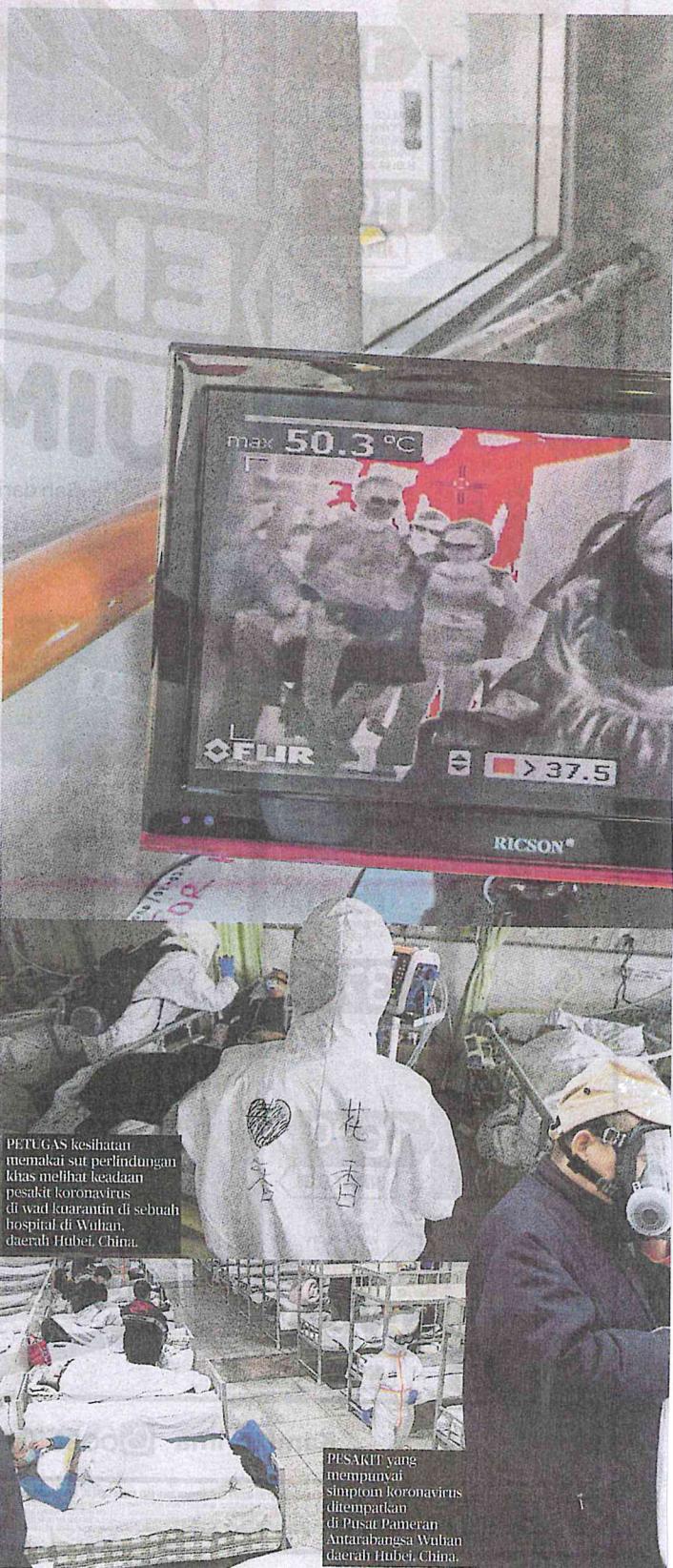
pital kerajaan, Kementerian Kesihatan memperluaskan kemudahan menjalankan ujian pengesahan koronavirus baharu selain dari 18 makmal Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR), Makmal Kesihatan Awam Kebangsaan (MKAK), empat makmal kesihatan awam di negeri dan 12 makmal hospital kerajaan seluruh negara kepada makmal swasta.

Beliau yang mempengerusikan mesyuarat khas mengenai jangkitan novel koronavirus di Putrajaya petang semalam berkata, Kementerian Luar menyelaraskan 212 kakitangan dari Kedutaan/Konsulat Jeneral untuk balik ke Malaysia dengan segera.

"Setibanya di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA), mereka dibawa ke tempat pemeriksaan kesihatan

untuk saringan kesihatan termasuk pengambilan sampel klinikal.

"Mereka yang ada gejala dibawa ke hospital manakala yang tiada gejala dibenar pulang dan diletak di bawah pengawasan dan pemantauan selama 14 hari," katanya.



PETUGAS kesihatan memakai sut perlindungan khas melihat keadaan pesakit koronavirus di wad kuarantine di sebuah hospital di Wuhan, daerah Hubei, China.

PUSAKIT yang mempunyai simptom koronavirus ditempatkan di Pusat Pameran Antarabangsa Wuhan daerah Hubei, China.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 11A

RUANGAN : LOKAL



PENUMPANG penerbangan dari Singapura ke Kota Bharu melalui kamera pengimbas suhu untuk saringan kesihatan di Lapangan Terbang Sultan Ismail Petra, Kota Bharu, Kelantan, semalam.

2019-nCoV: GARIS PANDUAN KHAS BUAT MAJIKAN OLEH KEMENTERIAN SUMBER MANUSIA

LIMA TINDAKAN:



Sumber: Kemenseriand Kesehatan Malaysia



SAIFUDDIN (empat dari kiri), Dr Ahmad Sani (tiga dari kiri), Mohd Azmi Abd Hamid (dua dari kanan) dan Lembaga Pengarah Pertubuhan Kebudayaan Palestina Di Malaysia (PCOM) Dr Ziyad Shehadah (kiri) bersama ambulans yang bakal disumbangkan, semalam.

BAWA STAF KEDUTAAN

Kerajaan jamin proses berperingkat 298 rakyat Malaysia di Beijing pulang ke tanah air

Oleh Yusmizal Dolah
Ailing
yusmizal@hmetro.com.my

Bangi

Kerajaan memberi jaminan membawa pulang 298 pegawai dan kakitangan Kedutaan Malaysia termasuk 212 ahli keluarga mereka di Beijing dan tujuh lagi pejabat kedutaan.

Menteri Luar Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah berkata, ia untuk meminimumkan risiko pendedahan kepada mereka di China susulan penularan wabak koronavirus baru.

"Proses membawa pulang dilakukan secara berperingkat demi keselamatan semua."

"Kita sentiasa bersofidari dengan kerajaan dan rakyat China serta yakin dengan keupayaan mereka menghadapi situasi ini," katanya pada sidang media selepas Majlis Penyerahan 10 Ambulans Wakaf Sumbangan Malaysia kepada Gaza anjur Majlis Perundungan Pertubuhan Islam Malaysia (Mapim) di sini semalam.

Hadir sama Presiden Mapim Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Mapim Dr Ahmad Sani Araby Al Kahery.

Eksekutif Mapim Dr Ahmad Sani Araby Al Kahery.

Saifuddin berkata, kerajaan tidak menyekat kemasukan rakyat China ke Malaysia kecuali dari Wuhan di wilayah Hubei dan kawasan lain dikenal pasti terjejas.

Menurutnya, keputusan itu praktikal kerana hubungan kedua-dua negara rapat dan ada rakyat Malaysia di sana begitu juga sebaliknya. "Cuma seperti disebut Timbalan Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, kita akan ketatkan kemasukan dari beberapa kawasan," katanya.

Tiada sekatan kapal persiaran

Kuala Lumpur: Kerajaan tidak berhasrat menyekat mana-mana kapal persiaran berlabuh di negara ini susulan penyebaran wabak koronavirus baru.

Menyatakan demikian Anthony Loke berkata, sekatan hanya dikenakan selepas mendapat saranan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) sekiranya ada bukti wabak itu boleh disebarluaskan menerusi pengangkutan terbatit.

"Kita tidak menyekat mana-mana kapal persiaran, tetapi kita ikut nasihat KKM jika ada bukti perkhidmatan Pembaruan LKM di Puspakom Wangsa Maju Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

"Sudah tentu KKM membuat pemeriksaan ketat dan saringan sukan suhu badan kepada setiap orang yang masuk melalui setiap pintu masuk negara termasuk di lapangan terbang.

"Setakat ini, kerajaan hanya menyekat rakyat China dari wilayah Hubei dan wilayah Yokohama selepas seorang penumpang lelaki dari Hong Kong positif koronavirus.

Pihak berkuasa Jepun menjalankan saringan 273 daripada 3,700 penumpang dan anak kapal itu dan dijangka mereka dikuarantin 14 hari.

Sehingga kini, jangkitan di atas kapal itu mencecah 20 orang.



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : ANCAMAN KORONAVIRUS DI CHINA

Lagi pelancong Wuhan positif wabak

KKM mengesahkan Malaysia catat 15 kes jangkitan koronavirus

PUTRAJAYA

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengesahkan seorang lagi pelancong dari Wuhan, China positif koronavirus semalam menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan sebanyak 15 kes.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, pelancong wanita berusia 59 tahun itu dimasukkan ke Hospital Permai, Johor Bahru.

Menurutnya, suami wanita berkenaan turut dimasukkan ke

wad isolasi hospital tersebut.

Beliau berkata, pasangan tersebut bersama anak dan menantu mereka tiba di Singapura pada 17 Januari lalu sebelum memasuki Johor Bahru pada 21 Januari lepas.

"Wanita itu mula mengalami gejala demam pada 26 Januari lalu. Beliau tidak mendapatkan rawatan dari mana-mana fasiliti kesihatan dan hanya mengambil ubat demam yang dibeli anaknya dari farmasi berham-piran tempat penginapaninya.

"Pada Rabu lalu, beliau masih tidak sihat setelah ubatan yang diambilnya habis.

"Pihak Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) Johor Bharu menerima makluman daripada pihak pengurusan tempat penginapannya pada hari yang sama



Dr Dzulkefly (tengah) pada sidang akbar mengenai perkembangan koronavirus di Putrajaya semalam.

dan beliau dirujuk ke hospital bagi menerima rawatan lanjut," katanya pada sidang akbar mengenai perkembangan wabak

koronavirus di KKM di sini semalam.

Dr Dzulkefly memberitahu, wanita berkenaan dijadualkan

Pelancong wanita berusia 59 tahun itu dimasukkan ke Hospital Permai Johor Bahru."

pulang ke Wuhan pada Selasa lalu.

"Bagaimanapun, hanya anak lelaki dan menantunya pulang ke tanah air mereka.

"Buat masa ini, kita sedang melakukan proses pengesahan kontak pesakit ketika beliau menginap di pusat penginapan itu," tambahnya.

Menteri itu berkata, sebagian 16 kes lagi masih menunggu keputusan makmal.

Tiada paksaan bawa 34 rakyat Malaysia pulang dari Wuhan

SHAH ALAM - Kerajaan tidak akan memaksa kesemua 34 rakyat Malaysia yang dikenal pasti masih berada di bandar Wuhan, wilayah Hubei, China untuk pulang ke tanah air tanpa kerelaan mereka.

Timbalan Menteri Luar, Datuk Marzuki Yahya berkata, susulan tindakan penutupan bandar Wuhan oleh pemerintah China bagi tujuan kuarantin akibat wabak koronavirus, pihaknya belum menerima laporan berhubung sebab keingganannya mereka pulang ke Malaysia sebelum ini.

Pihaknya turut mengandaikan keputusan itu dibuat oleh seramai 34 rakyat Malaysia terbabit disebabkan faktor sudah berkeluarga dan komitmen tugas di sana.

"Keadaan mereka mungkin tidak meruncing. Jadi 34 rakyat Malaysia terbabit merasakan tiada keperluan untuk pulang ke Malaysia bersama 107 rakyat lain dari Wuhan melalui pesawat khas di terbangkan kerajaan baru-baru ini.

"Bagaimanapun, kita akan terus memberikan perhatian kepada mereka dan wakil kedutaan Malaysia di wilayah Hubei bersedia menghulurkan bantuan sekiranya diperlukan," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian* kelmarin.



Terdahulu, kerajaan Malaysia menggunakan sebuah pesawat khas disewa syarikat penerbangan AirAsia untuk membawa pulang seramai 107 rakyat Malaysia yang berada di Wuhan melalui Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Wuhan Tianhe.

Marzuki berkata, pihaknya sedang menunggu laporan penuh daripada pihak kedutaan mengenai status terkini kesemua 34 rakyat Malaysia yang masih berada di sana.

Menurutnya, identiti mereka sudah dikenal pasti, bagaimanapun maklumat itu belum dapat disalurkan kepada kerajaan Malaysia.

"Kerajaan Malaysia melalui pihak kedutaan kini hanya menggunakan alat komunikasi untuk berhubung dengan 34 rakyat kita di Wuhan susulan tidak semua mereka berdaftar dengan kedua-dua.

"Senario itu turut menyebabkan kita tidak dapat menempatkan mereka di bangunan kedutaan Malaysia di Wuhan, namun kerajaan akan memberi jaminan tahap kesihatan akan diperiksa sebaik sahaja mereka dapat berhubung dengan pihak kedutaan Malaysia di China," katanya.

'Jangan masuk lokap sebab berita palsu'

KUALA LUMPUR - Jangan mensia-siakan diri masuk ke lokap hanya kerana menyebarkan berita palsu berhubung penularan wabak koronavirus.

Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Badar berkata, perbuatan menyebarkan fakta tidak tepat berhubung isu berkenaan adalah satu tindakan kurang cerdik kerana ia boleh menggugat ketenteraman awam.

"Contohnya semalam (kelmarin) kononnya ada sebuah kapal di Kuala Linggi, Melaka yang tiba dari Wuhan, China membawa anak kapal dari China, ia adalah tidak benar dan orang yang menyebarkannya bukannya

'Master' pelabuhan.

"Sekiranya orang kampung yang mempercayainya sudah tentu boleh menyebabkan kegemparan awam kerana risau virus ini turut dibawa bersama mereka (anak kapal China). Penyebarinya telah menyusahkan diri dan telah diambil tindakan," katanya.

Beliau mengulas perkembangan berita palsu koronavirus pada sidang akbar majlis serah terima tugas Pengarah Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Narkotik di Bukit Aman di sini semalam.

Abdul Hamid berkata, pihaknya akan mengambil tindakan berhubung penularan berita palsu itu dengan serta-merta. - Bernama

Malaysia hantar lagi 3.7 juta sarung tangan ke China

PUTRAJAYA - Sebanyak 3.7 sarung tangan klinikal dan 20,000 sut pelindung perubatan dihantar ke China.

Presiden Dewan Perniagaan Laluan Sutera Malaysia-China, Tan Sri Ong Tee Keat berkata, daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak 2.3 juta pasang sarung tangan berlepas ke negara itu semalam.

"Barangan itu akan dihantar menerusi China Airlines," katanya pada sidang akbar di Kementerian Industri Utama di sini semalam. Turut turut hadir Menterinya, Teresa Kok.

Menurut Tee Keat, sumbangan tersebut adalah sumbangsih daripada lima syarikat Malaysia.



Tee Keat (tiga dari kanan) bersama Teresa pada sidang akbar di Kementerian Industri Utama, Putrajaya semalam.

"Ia akan dihantar ke wilayah Hunan, Hubei, Shandong, Hainan dan Guandong," katanya.

Pada 31 Januari lalu, Teresa mengumumkan Malaysia

akan menyumbang 18 juta pasang sarung tangan klinikal kepada China menerusi Majlis Promosi Eksport Getah Malaysia dan pengeluar sarung tangan getah di negara ini.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

Going back to basics

Washing hands is 'social vaccination'

THE death toll from the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak in mainland China, up to yesterday, has risen to 638 according to China's National Health Commission. There appears to be no reprieve since it was first detected in December in Hubei province's Wuhan City.

Reportedly, at least 28 countries have confirmed cases, with two deaths outside China, one in Hong Kong and another in the Philippines. With deaths reported out of China, global worry escalates. Vaccines and antiviral medication have yet to be discovered although China is reportedly re-purposing a HIV drug as part of treatment.

Bloomberg recently reported that The Wuhan Institute of Virology has applied for a patent in China for the use of an experimental drug by Gilead Sciences Inc to treat the condition.

In an NST interview (December, 2018), Hospital Sungai Buloh's former head of Infectious Diseases Unit Datuk Dr Christopher Lee — slightly over a year before the discovery of the Wuhan virus — had predicted that the next outbreak of infectious disease "could be more dangerous, especially with increased transmission of pathogens from animals to humans". There would be recurring and emerging diseases in the future, he said, and as "humans move faster and easier around the world, the transmissions of infectious diseases will increase".

Even with antibiotics and antivirals, the world would not be able to prevent infectious diseases from spreading if the public does not take preventive steps, primary of which is washing hands properly and effectively. There is a need to inculcate this practice from young and turn it into a habit. At homes, workplaces and public areas, hand-washing should be second nature, like eating or brushing teeth.

Stay home if you are unwell. Wear the mask if you have flu-like symptoms. Use a hand sanitiser when you are outside, but always wash your hands with soap and water when you return home.

The United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention says clean hands can prevent the spread of germs, including those that are resistant to antibiotics and are becoming difficult, if not impossible, to treat.

In the same interview, Dr Lee said with the proper technique, the simple act of washing hands with soap and water could significantly reduce the transmission of pathogens because hands are the most significant medium of pathogen transfer.

"Hand-washing is form of social vaccination. Similar to vaccination, when you wash your hands, you protect yourself and others from being infected," he said. If one's hands are not clean, he can infect himself and others by touching a contaminated place or person. The World Health Organisation insisted on it as "it's a critical step in reducing infection. Forgetting it cost lives".

It is easy — wet palms with water, then soap, rub hands, the backs of hands, in between fingers and under the fingernails for 20 seconds. Rinse hands and dry them with a clean cloth or paper. If you need a timer, sing Happy Birthday. That will cover all bases. Hand-washing is a mundane activity and sometimes we forget to do it. But in the face of a worldwide health emergency, this simple act can prevent infections and save lives.

THE NEW STRAITS TIMES
 New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd,
 10 Jalan 1/155A, Taman Tun Dr Ismail,
 5040 Kuala Lumpur
 Tel: 03-2056 7148
 Fax: 03-2056 7149
 Email: nst@nsp.com.my • Online: www.nst.com.my



NOVEL CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

'INFECTED MALAYSIANS NOT IN DANGER'

Everyone is stable and receiving treatment, says health minister

HANA NAZ HARUN
 PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

MALAYSIANS who are infected with the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) are not in danger, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

There are 15 cases of 2019-nCoV in the country, with four of them being Malaysians.

"Almost everyone is generally stable and not in danger. We will continue to treat them symptomatically," he said here yesterday.

The first local case involved a 41-year-old man who returned from Singapore on Jan 23 after attending a conference, which was attended by a delegation from China.

He tested positive for 2019-nCoV on Feb 3, and was placed at an isolation ward in Sungai Buloh Hospital.

His sister, who was Malaysia's 13th coronavirus case, was the first case of local coronavirus transmission. She is warded at Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital in Kedah and is reported to be in stable condition.

Two Malaysians who returned on an evacuation flight from Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak, tested positive for 2019-nCoV on Feb 5. The father and son have been warded at Tuanku Ja'afar Hospital in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

Dr Dzulkefly said the ministry conducted contact tracing on the first local case, adding that the sample results of his family members returned negative.

"We did throat swabs (on all his close contacts) and all came back negative, including his wife."

Dr Dzulkefly said another tourist from China tested positive for 2019-nCoV.

He said the woman, 59, was from Wuhan and had arrived in Johor from Singapore with her husband, son and daughter-in-law on Jan 21.

"She developed a fever on Jan 26, but took medicine that her son had bought at a pharmacy."

"She was scheduled to return to China on Feb 4, but decided to

remain (in the country) because she was not feeling well. Her son and his wife flew back home."

"On Feb 5, the woman was still ill. She was referred to a hospital and was found to have been infected with 2019-nCoV on Feb 6."

He said the woman was warded at the isolation ward in Permai Johor Baru Hospital and reported to be in stable condition.

She was accompanied by her husband, whose samples had been taken for tests.

Dr Dzulkefly advised the public, especially those who were at high risk such as young children, pregnant women and the elderly, to limit visits to the hospital.

"If you need to go to the hospital, refrain from touching your eyes, nose and mouth until you have washed your hands with soap. Try to maintain a distance of 1m radius from anyone who is coughing or sneezing."

Dr Dzulkefly had, on Thursday, advised Hindu devotees and visitors taking part in the Thaipusam celebration today to take precautionary measures to prevent infections.

He urged everyone to prioritise personal hygiene by regularly washing their hands with water and soap or sanitiser, and to wear

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY



face masks.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, in a statement yesterday, said the government had taken steps to tighten measures against the outbreak of the 2019-nCoV virus, which has reached 27,636 cases with 638 fatalities globally.

She said travel restrictions imposed on Chinese visitors from Hubei and Wuhan would be expanded to other regions locked down by the Chinese government.

"The Immigration Department will implement the travel restrictions once the Chinese government declares a territory has been locked down."

She said the other steps included boosting checks at entry points by increasing the number of thermal scanners, as well as laboratories to speed up investigation and detection of sample results from suspected coronavirus patients.

"In addition to government hospitals, the Health Ministry will expand the facility to conduct 2019-nCoV detection tests to include 18 laboratories, including the Institute of Medical Research, the National Public Health Laboratory, four state public health laboratories and 12 government hospitals."

Dr Wan Azizah said the steps were decided at a special National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) meeting on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Communications and Multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Mohd Zuki Ali, sec-

retaries-general of ministries, as well as officials from the National Security Council, the Immigration Department and Nadma.

Dr Wan Azizah said the number of coronavirus patients in Malaysia stood at 15.

She said the Foreign Ministry was coordinating the return of 212 non-essential personnel from the Malaysian embassy and consulates in China.

She said upon their arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the diplomatic personnel would be taken to a health checkpoint for screening.

"Those with symptoms of the disease will be hospitalised while others will be allowed to return home and kept under home surveillance for 14 days.

"They should report to a nearby clinic or hospital should they display symptoms such as cough, cold, fever, shortness of breath or other health complications."

She said up to 8pm on Thursday, 10 non-essential staff members (from two families) from the Malaysian consulate in Guangzhou had arrived at KLIA and were taken to the health checkpoint for examination.

They were later allowed to leave and placed under home surveillance.

Dr Wan Azizah said the government would assist the 34 Malaysian citizens in Wuhan who could not return home together with the 107 citizens who were repatriated on Feb 4.

"They are not able to leave the region following the restrictions imposed by the Chinese government."

She said official events or public activities may continue unless the organisers chose to cancel it.

POSITIVE CASES OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) IN MALAYSIA

Case	Date	Gender	Age	Hospital	Details
1	Jan 24	Woman	66	Sungai Buloh Hospital, Selangor	The grandmother to case 2 and 3 Mother-in-law to case 5 and 8
2	Jan 24	Boy	11	Sungai Buloh Hospital, Selangor	Brother to case 3, Son to case 5 and Grandson to case 1
3	Jan 24	Boy	2	Sungai Buloh Hospital, Selangor	Brother to case 2, Son to case 5 and Grandson to case 1
4	Jan 25	Man	40	Permai Johor Baru Hospital, Johor	
5	Jan 28	Woman	36	Sungai Buloh Hospital, Selangor	Mother to cases 2 and 3 and daughter-in-law to case 1
6	Jan 28	Girl	4	Langkawi Hospital, Kedah	(Recovered and discharged on Feb 4)
7	Jan 28	Man	52	Permai Johor Baru Hospital, Johor	
8	Jan 30	Woman	49	Permai Johor Baru Hospital, Johor	Wife to case 7
9	Feb 4	Man	41	Sungai Buloh Hospital, Selangor	First import case involving a local
10	Feb 4	Man	63	Kuala Lumpur Hospital	
11	Feb 5	Man	45	Tuanku Ja'afar Hospital, Seremban	Father to case 12, who was evacuated from Wuhan, China
12	Feb 5	Boy	9	Tuanku Ja'afar Hospital, Seremban	Son to case 11, who was also evacuated from Wuhan, China
13	Feb 6	Woman	40	Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital, Kedah	Sister to case 9 and the first positive case through human contact in the country
14	Feb 6	Woman	37	Kuala Lumpur Hospital	
15	Feb 7	Woman	59	Permai Johor Baru Hospital, Johor	

Source: Health Ministry Corporate Communications Unit



Devotees at Batu Caves take precautions

KUALA LUMPUR: Hindu devotees and visitors to Sri Subramaniar Swamy Temple in Batu Caves here are taking precautionary measures against the spread of 2019-nCoV.

A day before Thaipusam, many devotees were seen wearing face masks at the temple, while visitors continue to ensure proper hygiene practice.

Police officers, security personnel and medical teams stationed at Batu Caves were also seen wearing face masks.

N. Prabu, 30, said public fears over the infection did not dampen his spirit to carry out his annual religious obligation.

"What's important is to protect myself by taking precautionary measures such as wearing face masks," he told Bernama.

Romi Sap, 25, a tourist from Jakarta, Indonesia, said he and his friend would ensure that they maintained personal hygiene by washing their hands regularly and wearing face masks.

"We have been advised by our government to wear face masks on flights and in public places.

"So, we are taking the necessary steps to enjoy our holiday here," said Romi, who visited the Batu Caves temple for the first time.

Health advisory notices were put up around the temple, with numbers to contact in case of an emergency.

Several ambulances were parked in the vicinity, with Malaysian Red Crescent Society members making their rounds.

About 1.5 million devotees are expected to throng Sri Subramaniar Swamy Temple here today.

Loke: No ban on cruise ships yet

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has yet to restrict international cruise ships from docking at ports in the country as concern grows over the deadly novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Transport Minister Anthony Loke, however, said measures were in place to contain the spread of the outbreak.

The measures, he said, included health screening such as temperature checks to ensure that tourists coming into the country were free from symptoms related to the virus.

"We have not banned any cruise ships (from docking in the country). We (the Transport and Health Ministries) have implemented measures such as check-

ing the temperature of tourists (to prevent the spread of the virus)," he said here yesterday.

Reuters reported on Feb 6 that the health authority in Taiwan had banned all international cruise ships from docking at the island from Thursday.

The ban was imposed amid increasing threat of the coronavirus

outbreak and after 10 more people tested positive for the virus on a quarantined cruise liner in Japan. The report said many tourists aboard the Japanese cruise ship entered Taiwan for a day-trip when the vessel anchored at its northern port of Keelung on Jan 31.

AFP reported that cruise lines worldwide had to deny boarding

to passengers and crew who had recently travelled to China.

The report quoted the Cruise Lines International Association (Clia) as saying that its members were taking extra precautions to prevent an outbreak of the virus on board cruise ships, where infections can spread rapidly.

According to the report, Clia represents some of the world's largest and best-known cruise lines, including TUI, Aida, MSC, Costa, Royal Caribbean and Carnival Cruises.

When asked if the government would restrict flights from China to Malaysia, Loke said such a decision must be made based on the evidence and recommendations by the Health Ministry.