

Fahmi: Govt to expand online harm definition to cover graphic content

PUTRAJAYA: The government is ready to review expanding the definition of online harm to include disturbing or graphic content, such as photographs or video recordings of road accidents.

Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil (*pic*) said the move is intended to safeguard the sensitivities of the public, victims and families, as well as prevent interference with investigations.



He cited the recent fatal crash involving six members of a family in Kedah as an example, saying that the dashcam footage of the

incident had been widely circulated online.

"Imagine if the family were to see the unfiltered footage? So, I hope the Online Safety Committee will consider this issue and invite stakeholders from social media platforms to take appropriate action. We want the platforms themselves to take action," he said.

Fahmi said this at a press conference after the Media Roundtable on Safe and Responsible Suicide Reporting here yesterday, which was also attended by Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

Fahmi said the spread of such content, including incidents of suicide, was the result of the failure of social media platforms to take down such posts and not from media reports.

He said that one of the main constraints faced was the failure of artificial intelligence (AI) technology used by social media platform owners to detect sensitive content written in local languages.

"The problem is that much of the content is sometimes written in local languages and cannot be detected by AI if these platforms do not conduct engagement sessions," he said, Bernama reported.

He added that the Communications Ministry, through the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), is working closely with the Online Safety Committee, chaired by Tan Sri Hasnah Mohammed Hashim, to study the matter.

Fahmi also warned that legal action could be taken against any platform operator who fails to regulate content under existing provisions.

"Platforms must take action. If they fail to do so, and we find that there are complaints, then the MCMC can take action against these platforms under the Online Safety Act (2025)," he added.

Higher medical tourism flows to buoy healthcare sector growth

PETALING JAYA: The healthcare sector is entering a new phase of growth, driven by stronger earnings quality, operational efficiency and better monetisation of healthcare demand, according to BIMB Securities Research.

The research firm has maintained its “overweight” call on the sector following the recently concluded first-quarter 2026 (1Q26) earnings season.

“The 1Q26 earnings reinforced what we believe is increasingly becoming the defining theme for Malaysia’s healthcare sector – growth is no longer a post-pandemic normalisation story, but more of higher-quality earnings and stronger monetisation of healthcare demand”, it said.

Hospital operators continued to deliver resilient performance, with IHH Healthcare Bhd posting year-on-year core earnings growth of 8%. The research house pointed out that the improvement was supported by stronger case mix, firmer pricing and rising patient intensity.

Average revenue per inpatient also continued to climb, increasing 12% for IHH Malaysia, reflecting the operators’ ability to generate higher value from existing assets through specialist-led services, higher-acuity procedures and daycare offerings rather than merely expanding bed capacity.

BIMB Research noted that earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation margins remained healthy at about 22%, highlighting the sector’s pricing power and ability to manage ongoing cost inflation.

Among the healthcare names under its coverage, Pharmaniaga Bhd emerged as the standout performer.

The company recorded a 31% year-on-year increase in profit after tax and minority interests, surpassing expectations and signalling that its manufacturing-led turnaround strategy is gaining traction.

BIMB Research pointed to stronger approved products purchase list deliveries and a 21% rise in manufacturing profit before tax as early evidence that the group’s transformation efforts are bearing fruit.

Looking ahead to the second half of 2026, the research house expects several catalysts to support further sector growth.

Sound prospects for Duopharma Biotech

Govt contracts and inventory buffer to reduce risks

HEALTHCARE

PETALING JAYA: Duopharma Biotech Bhd's earnings outlook remains resilient in spite of near-term uncertainties, underpinned by a solid growth strategy, earnings visibility and measures to mitigate rising input costs, analysts say.

While geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have driven up input costs such as active pharmaceutical ingredients (API), packaging and shipping, UOB Kay Hian (UOBKH) Research noted that Duopharma has not experienced material supply disruptions as raw material availability remains intact.

"To mitigate potential risks, the group has expanded inventory coverage for key APIs and packaging materials from three to four months previously to five to six months while actively qualifying second- and third-source suppliers."

CIMB Research noted that the company currently imports most of its raw materials from India and China but intends to navigate cost pressures by increasing reliance on local suppliers and implementing price hikes via the private sector in the second half of financial year 2026.

Duopharma has secured a contract valued at RM52mil from the Health Ministry (MoH) to supply insulin aspart over a two-year period, following the expiry of its

"As such, it is reasonable to expect delays in the new APPL contract cycle, which may result in an extension of the existing agreement."

RHB Research

earlier RM65.1mil contract for recombinant human insulin (RHI), which ended in May 2026.

Although the contract has expired, it expects that procurement from MoH will continue on a purchase order basis and that Duopharma will announce the renewal of the RHI supply contract, valued at approximately RM151mil over a three-year period.

It added that the combined total annual revenue from MoH insulin aspart and RHI sales is estimated to be RM76.3mil, comprising 8% of its 2026 and 7% of its 2027 revenue forecasts.

However, RHB Research flagged uncertainty due to potential delays in the company's approved products purchase list (APPL) tenders, given that APPL contract negotiations, which would have typically commenced six-to-eight months before contract expiry in December 2026, have yet to begin.

"As such, it is reasonable to expect delays in the new APPL contract cycle, which may

result in an extension of the existing agreement. This could be a risk to financial year 2027 revenue estimates, as 20 to 30 additional products from upcoming APPL contracts may not be included in the extension."

Nevertheless, it noted that private-sector pricing remains more flexible and could partly serve to offset this.

RHB Research said Duopharma's consumer product sales are likely to stay robust on the back of sustained spending on healthcare consumables.

It maintained its "buy" call on the stock, while trimming its target price to RM1.56 to reflect uncertainty over future product pricing power.

CIMB Research kept both its "buy" rating on Duopharma and its target price of RM1.81. UOBKH Research similarly maintained its "buy" recommendation with an unchanged target price of RM1.62, citing defensive earnings and cheap valuations.

Media called to support govt efforts in suicide prevention

PUTRAJAYA: More than 1,000 Malaysians die by suicide every year and the government wants the media to help change that.

Suicide cases have remained above the 1,000 mark for the fourth consecutive year, with police data recording 1,079 deaths in 2025 – a marginal 3.14% dip from 1,114 in 2024 that authorities say offers little cause for comfort.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad described the figures as “deeply concerning” and “unacceptably high,” emphasising that the slight decline does not represent a meaningful improvement.

“Suicide must no longer be seen as an isolated issue but as a national concern requiring collective action,” he said at a Round Table Discussion (RTD) on Safe and Responsible Media Reporting on Suicidal Behaviour yesterday.

The session, jointly chaired by Dzulkefly and Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, brought together media practitioners nationwide in what both ministries described as a historic cross-ministerial engagement.

It culminated in the signing of the Malaysian Media Pledge – backed by the Malaysian Media Council, National Union of Journalists Malaysia, and the Malaysian Media Clubs Association – committing the press to responsible journalism in mental health coverage.

Police data shows the upward trajectory has been steep: 981 cases in 2022, rising to 1,087 in 2023 – a 10.80% increase – before climbing further to 1,114 in 2024.

Dzulkefly cited World Health Organisation data showing more than 703,000 individuals die by suicide globally each year, equivalent to one death every 40 seconds.

He added that each death directly affects an estimated 135 others.

He pointed to responsible media reporting as one of the most effective international interventions available, adding that sensationalised or overly detailed coverage risks triggering copycat behaviour among vulnerable individuals.

“Through ethical reporting, the media does not merely inform, it could also play a role in saving lives,” he said, clarifying that the initiative seeks to promote ethical practice rather than curtail press freedom.

At the policy level, the minister highlighted several government commitments: the National Mental Health Strategic Plan 2020–2026, with suicide prevention prioritised under Strategy 8; the MySAVE programme focusing on prevention, early intervention, treatment and community support; and the HEAL 15555 crisis hotline, staffed by trained psychological officers.

He also pointed to Malaysia’s repeal of Section 309 of the Penal Code in September 2025, effectively decriminalising attempted suicide, as a landmark shift from a punitive approach to one centred on care, intervention and rehabilitation.

The RTD forms part of a collaboration between the Health Ministry, Communications Ministry and the Content Forum Malaysia to develop guidelines on suicide-related content.

– **By Kirtinee Ramesh**

Drowning in devices: The e-waste challenge

THERE are several pressing environmental challenges facing the world today, with climate change and global warming topping the list.

Driven largely by greenhouse gas emissions, climate change is causing rising temperatures, increasing sea levels and more frequent extreme weather events. Despite the overwhelming evidence, there are despoits.

The rapid destruction of biodiversity, degradation of ecosystems and extinction of species threaten the planet's ecological balance.

Reports indicate that 99% of the global population breathes polluted air while industrial and domestic waste continues to contaminate rivers, streams and other water sources. Malaysia is not immune to these environmental challenges and faces many of the same concerns.

At the same time, large tracts of forests are cleared for agriculture and development, reducing the Earth's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide and destroying vital wildlife habitats.

Deforestation in the Amazon, where lands are cleared for soybean cultivation and cattle ranching, has attracted world attention. In addition, billions of people still lack access to safe drinking water, exacerbated by pollution and climate-related droughts.

Overconsumption and rapid population growth are exhausting essential resources. Other pressing issues include ocean acidification, overfishing and plastic pollution. The excessive generation of waste, particularly hazardous materials and plastics, continues to degrade ecosystems and threaten public health.

Although the ozone layer is gradually recovering, its depletion over the Arctic region still allows harmful ultraviolet radiation to reach the Earth's surface, posing risks to both human health and the environment.

Every year on June 5, the world observes World Environment Day, a time to reflect on our responsibility towards the planet.

It is an opportunity to ask ourselves whether we have done enough to repay our environmental debt or whether we continue to add to it through unsustainable practices.

In Malaysia, however, the reality is far less comforting. Every day seems like e-waste day as the nation grapples with a growing influx of



Excessive generation of waste, including hazardous materials and plastics, causes environmental degradation. – PEXELPIC

discarded electronic products. Despite ongoing enforcement efforts by the Department of Environment (DOE) and local authorities, Malaysia continues to face challenges related to the illegal importation and management of e-waste.

Officially, Malaysia imports what are classified as "recoverable materials". In practice, however, concerns remain that some imported shipments contain electronic waste that ultimately ends up being processed or disposed of locally.

In certain developed economies, exported e-waste may be counted towards recycling targets, creating incentives for waste to be shipped abroad rather than managed domestically.

The environmental and health implications can be significant. Improper handling of e-waste may result in heavy metals and toxic substances leaching into soil and water sources.

In some cases, informal recycling activities, such as the burning of circuit boards to recover

valuable metals, can expose workers and nearby communities to harmful pollutants, particularly in areas surrounding unlicensed processing facilities.

The challenge is not merely one of enforcement but also of system design. Current efforts, while important, are often overwhelmed by the sheer scale and complexity of the e-waste problem. As the world becomes increasingly digital, global e-waste generation is projected to reach 75 million metric tonnes annually by 2030.

Malaysia cannot rely on enforcement measures alone to address this growing challenge. A more sustainable solution requires action before e-waste reaches our shores.

In line with the principles of a circular economy, responsibility must be shared across the entire value chain, particularly by manufacturers, exporters and consumers, to reduce waste generation and promote product reuse, repair and recycling.

Products entering Malaysia – whether

imported or locally assembled – should be designed for reparability, modularity and recyclability. Features such as replaceable batteries and accessible components can extend product lifespans and reduce e-waste.

Malaysia should also invest more in R&D to phase out hazardous materials such as brominated flame retardants, beryllium and cadmium. Stronger support for universities and industry can accelerate the development of safer and more sustainable alternatives.

We must also stop viewing e-waste solely as waste and recognise it as a resource. Informal recyclers should be brought into the formal economy through licensing, training and access to safer recovery technologies.

At the same time, illegal e-waste imports must be curbed. Customs and the DOE should strengthen monitoring through real-time tracking, enhanced port screening and a transparent registry of licensed processors. Penalties for offenders must be severe enough to deter repeat violations, including licence revocation, asset seizure and legal action against those responsible.

Finally, Malaysia cannot tackle the e-waste challenge alone. It should work with Asean partners to strengthen regional cooperation, harmonise standards, curb illegal waste shipments and develop shared recycling capacity.

Circularity is more than a green slogan; it is a practical strategy for reducing waste, conserving resources and lowering emissions. As Malaysia moves towards a more comprehensive circular economy framework, it must redesign both its products and policies to meet the challenges of a rapidly digitalising world.

Otherwise, World Environment Day risks becoming little more than an annual reminder of problems left unresolved. The time to act is now, before the next wave of e-waste becomes even harder to manage.

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Building Sarawak's next-gen healthcare professionals

► Cyberjaya College Kuching and Eden On The Park partner to close skilled aged care talent gap in region

KUCHING: As Sarawak faces rising demand for qualified aged care and rehabilitation professionals, Cyberjaya College Kuching has joined forces with Optimum-Eden Healthcare Sdn Bhd – the company behind Eden On The Park Senior Lifestyle & Care Residence Resort – to create direct pathways from classroom to clinic.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed during Cyberjaya College Kuching's recent Open Day.

It was signed by Doreen Tan, chief executive of Cyberjaya College Kuching, and Simon Yong, CEO of Optimum-Eden Healthcare, and witnessed by senior representatives from both organisations.

Under the MoU, both parties will work together on student engagement initiatives, practical industry-based training, and career development programmes designed to prepare graduates for immediate entry into the workforce.

It gives students hands-on clinical placements, structured internships, and career readiness training, with clear routes to employment upon graduation.

"This collaboration provides our students with valuable exposure to real-world healthcare



(From left) Optimum-Eden Human Resource and Administration manager Wendy Goh, Yong, Tan and Basil Jason John, head of Student Affairs and Development at Cyberjaya College Kuching.

and aged care environments, allowing them to develop practical skills, professional confidence, and industry readiness before entering the workforce," said Tan.

"As Sarawak continues to see growing demand for skilled healthcare and elderly care professionals, partnerships such as this play an important role in strengthening talent development while creating meaningful career pathways for our students and graduates."

Eden On The Park, licensed by the Health Ministry and the Social Welfare Department, provides rehabilitation and nursing care services

through its branches across Sarawak, including Kota Samarahan – giving students access to regulated, professional care environments.

The collaboration aligns with Sarawak's Post-Covid Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030, specifically its focus on human capital development and building a sustainable, inclusive healthcare ecosystem. By combining academic rigour with industry-driven care practices, both organisations are contributing toward a future where Sarawak's healthcare workforce is locally trained, industry-ready and internationally competitive.

Mosquitoes can learn to love common repellent, scientists find



What the insect has learned matters just as much as what the chemical does. PICTURE CREDIT: FREEPIK

MOSQUITOES can learn to associate the smell of the world's most common insect repellent with a tasty meal — and after training can even prefer to bite people who have been sprayed with it, an experimental study has found.

The surprising results, which were conducted "under very specific conditions" in the lab, do not "call into question the effectiveness" of the repellent DEET, lead study author Claudio Lazzari said.

Since being developed in the 1940s in the United States, the chemical compound has saved many lives from the scourge of insect bites.

"It is the absolute gold standard for repellents, used by the World Health Organisation to combat the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases," emphasised Lazzari, professor emeritus at the Insect Biology Research Institute at France's University of Tours.

However the world also needs to find new, more effective, environmentally friendly repellents that cause fewer allergies, he added.

That means figuring out exactly why insects are so turned off by the repellents that we do have.



Mosquitoes can learn to associate the smell of the world's most common insect repellent with a tasty meal and even prefer to bite people sprayed with it. PICTURE CREDIT: FREEPIK

"We don't know why" compounds like DEET deter mosquitoes, Lazzari admitted. Are they toxic for the little blood-suckers? Do they stop mosquitoes from tracking down our scent? Or do they just smell bad?

To find out more, the international

team of scientists used a form of conditioning made famous by Pavlov's dog, which learned to associate the arrival of food with the sound of a bell.

PARADIGM SHIFT

For the experiment, the mosquitoes

Heal

By AFP

were put in a fabric mesh enclosure, then presented with a bag of warm sheep's blood to observe how eagerly they fed on it.

Unsurprisingly, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes — which spread deadly diseases such as dengue fever, Zika, yellow fever and chikungunya — leapt at the chance.

When the smell of DEET was introduced, the mosquitoes moved away, which was also expected.

Next, the scientists fed the insects warm blood for 20 seconds, releasing DEET during the last 10 seconds.

That part was repeated three times before the mosquitoes were exposed to solely the scent of the repellent.

This time, more than 60 per cent of the insects tried to bite the fabric — even though there was no blood.

Then, one of the scientists offered up their hands — one clean, the other coated with DEET — to the trained mosquitoes to see which one they would bite.

The result was beyond doubt: the insects preferred the hand covered in repellent.

The scientists had similar results when they repeated the experiment

using sugar instead of blood, because mosquitoes mostly feed on plant nectar in the wild.

"The common assumption has always been that repellents work because of their chemistry," study co-author Clement Vinauger of Virginia Tech in the United States said in a statement.

But this study shows "that it's not the chemistry of the molecule itself that is toxic" to the mosquito, instead they are repelled by how they "interpret this chemical information", Lazzari added.

"What we are showing is that the mosquito's brain can rewrite that response based on experience," Vinauger explained.

"What the insect has learned matters just as much as what the chemical does. That, I think, is a paradigm shift."

While the mosquitoes were trained relatively quickly during the experiment, in nature "very specific conditions would be needed for things to happen the same way", Lazzari emphasised.

He advised everyone to follow the instructions on their repellent, because DEET can come in a variety of concentrations.

The study was published in the 'Journal of Experimental Biology'.

National

'Energy disruptions could spill over into food, medical supplies and manufacturing'

KUALA LUMPUR: Disruptions to energy and petrochemical supplies could have far-reaching implications beyond fuel availability, potentially affecting items critical to everyday life, such as medical supplies, food packaging and agricultural fertilisers, according to Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican.

The chairman of the Crisis Management Task Force under the National Economic Action Council (MTEN) said the biggest risk currently facing the country is not a single disruption in isolation, but the possibility of multiple pressures emerging simultaneously across energy, logistics, industrial supply chains, and broader economic activities.

"The impact of this crisis may unfold progressively



Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican

across sectors, which is why preparedness and resilience-building must remain central to our response," he told Bernama in an interview.

Mohd Hassan said energy security remains the immediate priority because energy sits at the centre of the economy, and that disruptions involving fuel supplies and petrochemical

feedstocks could quickly affect transportation, manufacturing, agriculture, construction, and consumer goods.

He said the modern economy runs on interconnected industrial supply chains, while medical supplies, food packaging and agricultural fertilisers are structurally linked to petrochemical inputs.

"When one link in this chain comes under strain, the impacts can ripple across the broader economy," he added.

Mohd Hassan highlighted that the government, through MTEN, is monitoring these vulnerabilities closely and working with industry partners to mitigate risks, protect consumers, and ensure critical supply lines remain open.

Looking ahead, he identified four areas requiring continued attention, with food security, particularly fertiliser availability and supply logistics, being the first.

"Food availability is not just about farming capacity, but also transportation, storage and industrial inputs."

Second is the medical and pharmaceutical supply chains, which remain dependent on imported inputs and international manufacturing networks despite Malaysia having buffers in several areas, and the third is logistics and shipping resilience.

He explained that shipping delays, port congestion and freight disruptions can still affect domestic industries and

businesses even when supplies remain available globally.

Heightened geopolitical tensions and climate-related risks have contributed to rising shipping and insurance costs, increasing overall supply chain expenses and placing additional pressure on businesses, importers and consumers.

"Lastly, larger companies may have stronger buffers against supply disruptions. Still, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and industrial manufacturers, especially those with shorter inventory cycles, are often more exposed to volatility in raw material supplies and tighter cash flow pressures."

Mohd Hassan noted that Petronas and industry players have made early progress

in securing oil supplies, but the situation remains fluid, with concerns that prolonged disruptions could place greater strain on inventories, logistics and competition for critical inputs.

"This is why Malaysia must continue strengthening buffers not only for fuel, but also for food, medical supplies, industrial inputs, and logistics capacity," he said.

Overall, he said the crisis underscores the importance of long-term national resilience, not only in managing today's shortages but also in strengthening Malaysia's capacity to withstand future external shocks in an increasingly uncertain global environment. — Bernama

Jumlah kes bunuh diri pada tahap membimbangkan

Putrajaya: Malaysia masih berdepan cabaran serius dalam menangani isu bunuh diri kerana sebanyak 1,079 kes direkodkan tahun lalu, walaupun menunjukkan penurunan berbanding tahun sebelumnya.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata data Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) menunjukkan trend peningkatan kes bunuh diri sejak beberapa tahun kebelakangan ini sebelum mencatat sedikit penurunan pada 2025.

“Sebanyak 981 kes direkodkan pada 2022 sebelum meningkat kepada 1,087 kes pada 2023, iaitu pertambahan 10.8 peratus.

“Pada 2024, angka itu terus meningkat kepada 1,114 kes, iaitu kenaikan 2.48 peratus berbanding tahun sebelumnya.

“Walaupun jumlah kes menu-

run kepada 1,079 pada 2025, ini masih berada pada tahap yang membimbangkan dan terlalu tinggi,” katanya ketika berucap pada sesi Persidangan Meja Bulat Pelaporan Media Selamat dan Bertanggungjawab Berkaitan Tingkah Laku Bunuh Diri di sini, semalam.

Sesi interaksi Menteri Kesihatan dan Menteri Komunikasi, Datuk Fahmi Fadzil bersama petugas media itu bertemakan ‘Peranan Media dalam Pencegahan Tingkah Laku Bunuh Diri: Ubah Tanggapan, Bina Harapan’.

Yang turut hadir Pengarah Urusan Kumpulan Media Prima yang juga Pengerusi Forum Kandungan Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (Content Forum), Datuk Rafiq Razali.

Dzulkefly berkata, Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) mere-



Fahmi bersama Dzulkefly dan Rafiq (dua dari kiri) pada sesi Persidangan Meja Bulat Pelaporan Media Selamat dan Bertanggungjawab Berkaitan Tingkah Laku Bunuh Diri di Putrajaya, semalam. (Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah/BH)

kodkan lebih 703,000 individu di seluruh dunia meninggal dunia akibat bunuh diri setiap tahun, bersamaan seorang individu setiap 40 saat.

Katanya, setiap kematian akibat bunuh diri memberi kesan mendalam kepada sekurang-kurangnya 135 individu lain yang rapat dengan mangsa, termasuk ahli keluarga dan sahabat.

Sementara itu, Fahmi berkata,

pertubuhan media mesti melaksanakan kawalan sendiri dalam pelaporan membabitkan isu sensitif, termasuk kes bunuh diri.

Beliau berkata, agensi kerajaan juga tidak akan melaksanakan sekatan terhadap pertubuhan media untuk melaporkan kes sedemikian.

Untuk tujuan kawal selia, katanya, sudah ada Akta Majlis Media Media Kementerian Komu-

nikasi memberi sokongan melalui Malaysia Press Institute (MPI) untuk mengadakan taklimat etikaewartawanan.

Fahmi berkata, laporan media membabitkan isu bunuh diri perlu berfakta, namun kaedah penyampaian sangat penting kerana laporan tidak seharusnya membawa kepada perbuatan meniru atau cubaan bunuh diri tanpa niat.

Kuala Lumpur

Gangguan terhadap bekalan tenaga dan petrokimia boleh membawa implikasi yang meluas melangkaui ketersediaan bahan api, berpotensi menjejaskan barangan penting untuk kehidupan seharian, seperti bekalan perubatan, pembungkusan makanan dan baja pertanian, kata Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican.

Beliau berkata, risiko terbesar dihadapi negara pada masa ini bukanlah gangguan tunggal secara berasingan tetapi kemungkinan pelbagai tekanan muncul serentak merentasi tenaga, logistik, rantai bekalan perindustrian dan aktiviti ekonomi yang lebih luas.

"Kesan krisis ini mungkin berlaku secara progresif merentasi sektor, sebab itulah persediaan dan pembinaan daya tahan mesti kekal penting dalam tindak balas kita," kata Pengerusi Pasukan Petugas Pengurusan Krisis di bawah Majlis Tindakan Ekonomi Negara (MTEN) itu kepada Bernama dalam satu temu bual, baru-baru ini.

Hassan berkata, keselamatan tenaga kekal menjadi keutamaan segera kerana tenaga berada di tengah-tengah ekonomi, gangguan yang membabitkan bekalan bahan api dan bahan mentah petrokimia boleh menjejaskan pengangkutan, pembuatan, pertanian, pembinaan dan barangan pengguna dengan pantas.

Beliau berkata, ekonomi moden berjalan berdasarkan rantai bekalan perindustrian yang saling berkaitan, manakala bekalan perubatan, pembungkusan makanan dan baja pertanian secara struktural dikaitkan dengan input petrokimia.

"Apabila satu rantai dalam sistem ini tertekan,



BEKALAN perubatan, pembungkusan makanan dan baja pertanian antara yang berisiko terjejas dengan gangguan terhadap bekalan tenaga dan petrokimia.

KRISIS BEKALAN DAN TENAGA GLOBAL

PELBAGAI TEKATAN MUNCUL SERENTAK

kesannya boleh merebak ke seluruh ekonomi yang lebih luas," katanya.

Mohd Hassan menekankan bahawa kerajaan, melalui MTEN, sedang memantau kelemahan ini dengan teliti dan bekerjasama dengan rakan industri untuk mengurangkan risiko, melindungi pengguna dan memastikan saluran bekalan kekal terbuka.

Melihat ke hadapan, beliau mengenal pasti empat bidang yang memerlukan perhatian berterusan, dengan keselamatan makanan, terutamanya keterse-

diaan baja dan logistik bekalan, menjadi yang pertama.

"Ketersediaan makanan bukan sahaja mengenai kapasiti pertanian, tetapi juga pengangkutan, penyimpanan dan input perindustrian," katanya.

Kedua, menurut Mohd Hassan ialah rantai bekalan perubatan dan farmaseutikal yang kekal bergantung pada input import dan rangkaian pembuatan antarabangsa walaupun Malaysia mempunyai penanaman dalam beberapa bidang, dan yang ketiga

ialah logistik dan daya tahan penghantaran.

Beliau menjelaskan bahawa kelewatan penghantaran, kesesakan pelabuhan dan gangguan pengangkutan masih boleh menjejaskan industri dan perniagaan domestik walaupun bekalan masih tersedia di seluruh dunia.

Ketegangan geopolitik yang memuncak dan risiko berkaitan iklim menyumbang kepada peningkatan kos penghantaran dan insurans, meningkatkan perbelanjaan rantai bekalan keseluruhan dan memberi

tekanan tambahan kepada perniagaan, pengimport dan pengguna.

Akhir sekali, syarikat yang lebih besar mungkin mempunyai penampakan lebih kukuh terhadap gangguan bekalan, bagaimanapun perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) dan pengeluar perindustrian terutamanya yang mempunyai kitaran inventori lebih pendek, kebiasaannya lebih terdedah kepada turun naik dalam bekalan bahan mentah dan kesukaran mengurus aliran tunai. - BERNAMA