

# Save a dime, risk a life? Beware of cheap fake meds online

**PETALING JAYA:** It may seem like a good bargain online. But it comes with serious risks, as counterfeit medicines and supplements are still being sold on e-commerce platforms despite ongoing crackdowns.

TikTok Shop Malaysia said medicines and supplements are subject to requirements, including the need for a MAL number or notification from the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA), before being listed.

"Through our Intellectual Property Protection Centre, brands or authorised representatives can submit takedown requests for products and monitor their status.

"There is no finish line when it comes to safety. Users are encouraged to report these products, content and sellers through the in-app reporting channel," said a spokesperson.

TikTok Shop Malaysia is working with the Domestic Trade and

Cost of Living Ministry and Health Ministry to address evolving forms of circumvention.

The spokesperson said continuous investments are made to improve safety tools, technology and personnel, with more than US\$1bil committed globally to protect users from fraudulent and dangerous activities.

Automated systems are also used to detect potential fraud, infringement, unsafe content or violative product listings, both before and after products or content are uploaded.

"Sellers must submit official documentation during registration, which is then verified against business and banking details to ensure authenticity.

"Store names are subject to strict guidelines to prevent misrepresentation, including restrictions on terms such as 'official', 'flagship' or 'authorised'," the spokesperson said.

Once approved, new sellers undergo a probationary period

where daily orders and product listings are capped as they familiarise themselves with platform policies.

Between January and June this year, it said more than 70 million product listing attempts were rejected globally for policy violations, with a proactive removal rate exceeding 99.5%.

Some 1.4 million seller account registration applications that failed to meet its standards were declined, with more than 700,000 sellers removed during the same period due to shop-level violations.

"More than 900,000 reports from users viewing TikTok Shop videos or live streams were also reviewed," the spokesperson said.

Shopee strictly prohibits the sale of counterfeit and prohibited items too, requiring all sellers to comply with local regulations and platform policies.

A spokesperson said the platform works closely with the Malaysian Pharmacists Society

(MPS) to verify pharmacies and actively remove listings that violate its rules.

"We are committed to building a safe and trusted platform where shoppers can transact with confidence.

"We also use proactive monitoring and work with brands, law enforcement and the Health Ministry to detect and take action against sellers breaching our policies, including account suspension, permanent bans and, where appropriate, legal action.

"Users are encouraged to report suspicious or counterfeit products via the 'Report this Product' option."

Complaints can also be made to the Public Complaints Management System (SISPAA), which is used to manage public complaints, including reports of fake or unregistered medicines.

MPS president Amrahi Buang said all pharmaceutical products sold online must be registered with the Health Ministry and

comply with laws including the Poisons Act, Sale of Drugs Act and the Medicines (Advertisement & Sale) Act and Regulations.

"Legitimate products have the Health Ministry hologram tag and the MAL number," he said, adding that the number can be checked at the NPRA website.

He said MPS also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with an e-commerce platform to curb the sale of counterfeit drugs online.

There are several conditions to be fulfilled when applying to open an online store as per the MOU, including having a licensed pharmacist, ensuring the products sold online can be tied to a physical store and confirming that the pharmacist is an MPS member.

"Pharmacists can check if the product is legitimate and advise you.

"We don't just sell drugs. We want the best for our customers," he said.

# Drugstores not immune to fraud

## Cases of stolen identity, counterfeit products

By GERARD GIMINO and QISTINA SALLEHUDDIN  
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**PETALING JAYA:** What was first a mere question from a friend about discounted products quickly turned into a worrying discovery for pharmacist Rachel Gan May Shiang.

Someone was using her pharmacy's identity to sell doubtful products.

"I was sent a screenshot and that was when I knew our pharmacy was being impersonated online.

"The store looked almost identical. The only difference was that one of the letters bore a small alphabet as opposed to mine.

"Unregistered products in the Malaysian market were also sold on that site," said Gan, who founded a pharmacy in Kota Kemuning, Shah Alam.

This led to complaints being made to the said e-commerce platform. Several of the product postings were then removed.

Days later, however, more fake accounts emerged.

"What's even more worrying is



that these products are being purchased.

"Besides the impersonation, there are wider public health concerns," she said.

Gan, who is honorary secretary of the Malaysian Community Pharmacy Guild, questioned how the said platform vets its sellers, especially for those related to sectors such as pharmaceuticals.

Her case is not an isolated one, as even chain pharmacies are being targeted by fraudulent operators.

"Over the past year, we noticed this becoming increasingly rampant.

"At first, we received customer enquiries, with many also checking the authenticity of the products at our physical stores.

"So we checked the sites daily

and lodged reports with the relevant authorities every time our brand name is misused to sell health and supplement products," said Alpro Pharmacy professional care and development manager Ng Yi Ling.

These stores impersonate the Alpro brand, logo and images, she said.

The only difference was in the capitalisation of the letters in the brand name.

"Our biggest concern is how consuming these products will impact the health of consumers. We do not know the contents of these products," she said.

Du Kiat Seng and Ng Seng Wei, who are the brand owners and sole distributor of a supplement product in Malaysia, said they have received complaints about counterfeit products as recently as March.

"We tried ordering the product ourselves and found that it was clearly a counterfeit."

The giveaway was the absence of mandatory hologram tags.

The registration number was also a duplicated one, they said.

Both of them found that posts

**Ways to identify fake online pharmacies**

- Compare the store name, logo, and spelling with the official pharmacy page.
- Check the product or pharmacy's official websites for warnings on impersonators.
- Significantly cheaper medicine or supplement prices.
- Does not have the Malaysian Pharmacists Society recognition.
- Repetitive, overly positive, or generic reviews that look automated.

**Ways to report fake medicine and supplements sold online**

- Lodge a report to the e-commerce platform.
- Report it to the SISPAA public complaints portal or the Pharmacy Enforcement Branch.

Source: Various *The Star* graphics

of doubtful products would be taken down following complaints but they would reappear the next day on the same online store.

"There should be some sense of responsibility from platforms to do their due diligence before allowing anyone to list health products for sale online."

Brego Life Sciences marketing manager Claris Wong said they discovered such issues happening since 2024.

"We received complaints online. The prices were between 30% and 40% cheaper.

"We purchased the products and saw that they were almost

identical with our products, although there were subtle differences in the printing.

"There was even a hologram printed on it. But when we scanned it, we found the product was not registered," she said.

She said there was an instance where a customer was hospitalised after consuming a counterfeit product.

"Counterfeit products are dangerous.

"Our tests revealed that they do not have any of the active ingredients as claimed and may also contain unknown or harmful substances," she said.

## Emergency department at HKL under upgrade

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Emergency and Trauma Department at Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL), which has been circulating on social media as looking like a “war zone”, is currently undergoing upgrading works.

HKL director Datuk Dr Harikrishna KR Nair said the department is operating with its space reduced by 50%, while the remaining half is being used for the upgrading project.

“The project is part of strategic planning to increase patient capacity and improve comfort, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026,” he said in a statement yesterday, as reported by Bernama.

He said the current condition of the facilities is temporary due to renovation works and that extra seating will be provided for patients and accompanying family members, subject to the capacity of existing tents.

Despite the space constraints, Dr Harikrishna said that operations at the department continue as usual, with all cases managed in accordance with the standard operating procedure under the no wrong door policy.

# Budget cut will hurt the most vulnerable

REPRODUCTIVE Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM) strongly objects to the proposed RM3.06bil reduction to the Health Ministry’s budget, as it threatens to reverse significant gains and deepen existing inequalities in access to healthcare in Malaysia.

We believe such a reduction will have tangible and immediate consequences. Essential services ranging from primary care and maternal health to chronic disease management and preventative programmes will face major disruptions, delays or scaling back.

Medications may become less accessible or inconsistently available, referrals to multidisciplinary care (including pain specialists or mental health support) may be limited, and overstretched healthcare professionals may have less time for patient-centred consultations.

Taking endometriosis as an

example, a RM3.06bil cut to the budget will likely cause huge barriers for women and girls with endometriosis who seek treatment in public hospitals. For diagnosis of endometriosis, access to gynaecologists, ultrasound or MRI imaging, and in some cases laparoscopic surgery are all resource intensive.

This decision to cut the budget could mean fewer specialist clinics available, longer referral pathways from primary care, and delays in elective surgeries such as diagnostic laparoscopy. For a condition that already takes an average of six to eight years to diagnose, this could extend suffering further. The impact does not stop at diagnosis. Endometriosis care requires ongoing follow-up, access to hormonal treatments, pain management, and sometimes fertility services.

A sweeping budget cut also risks deepening gendered ine-

qualities, as sexual and reproductive health services, already chronically underfunded and overlooked, are often the first to be sidelined.

We call on policymakers to immediately withdraw this proposed budget cut. Healthcare funding is not optional, it is a core responsibility and a fundamental obligation. A reduction of this scale is not just a policy decision, it is a direct risk to lives and economic stability.

Communities with the least resources, including vulnerable and low-income groups, rural populations, women and girls requiring reproductive health services, older people, individuals living with chronic diseases and persons living with disabilities will all bear the brunt of this cut.

Reduced access to quality and affordable healthcare services will exacerbate already large healthcare disparities which will

lead to higher long-term costs for both individuals and the healthcare system.

This risks reinforcing a cycle where patients disengage from the public system or turn to private care they cannot afford. Ultimately, a budget reduction undermines Malaysia’s efforts to build structured, equitable care, and widens the gap between those who can access timely, quality care and those who continue to suffer in silence.

**REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS  
ADVOCACY ALLIANCE  
MALAYSIA (RRAAM)  
ENDOMETRIOSIS  
ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA  
(MyEndosis)  
ALL WOMEN’S ACTION  
SOCIETY (Awam)  
WOMEN’S AID  
ORGANISATION (WAO)  
SIS FORUM (MALAYSIA)  
ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN  
LAWYERS (AWL)**

# Survey finds 10% of elderly living with dementia

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia is facing a public health challenge, as approximately 10% of citizens aged 60 and above are living with dementia, according to the findings of the National Health and Morbidity Survey 2025.

The findings, announced on April 20 in Putrajaya, showed an increase from 8.5% in 2018, reflecting an urgent need to strengthen efforts in the prevention and management of conditions which affect memory, thinking and the ability to carry out daily activities.

Universiti Malaya Geriatric Unit head Prof Dr Tan Maw Pin, who represents a coalition of dementia-related organisations, described the increase as an early warning to prioritise brain health in the national health agenda.

"The rise in cases is not only influenced by age, but is also linked to the burden of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity and high cholesterol, which are major risk factors for cognitive decline."

The coalition comprises the Dementia Alliance of Malaysia, Alzheimer's Disease Foundation Malaysia, Johor Bahru Alzheimer's Disease Support Association, Dementia Society Perak and the Penang Dementia Association.

She said although there have been improvements in several healthy ageing indicators, such as a reduction in depression rates and an increase in older adults' ability to carry out daily activities, the developments are still insufficient to curb the rise in dementia.

"The coalition urges the government to accelerate the implementation of the Dementia Action Plan 2023-2030, including allocating specific funding to ensure its effectiveness."

The coalition also put forward several key recommendations, including expanding public awareness campaigns to reduce stigma, strengthening early screening at primary healthcare facilities, and implementing

prevention programmes focused on healthy lifestyles and chronic disease management.

It also proposed more comprehensive support for caregivers and families of patients through training, respite care services and the strengthening of community-based services.

"Dementia is not just a health issue but also has implications for social structures, economic productivity and family wellbeing."

Tan said Malaysia is projected to become an aged nation in the near future, which could lead to an increase in dementia cases if no effective early interventions are implemented.

"Through early and integrated action, disease progression could be slowed, patients could live with greater dignity and families could receive the support they need."

The coalition emphasised that a comprehensive approach, involving the government, healthcare sector, communities and society at large, is crucial to ensure better care for those affected. – Bernama

## Pertimbang rawatan di bawah tanggungan PERKESO

**SHAH ALAM** - Kongres Kesatuan Sekerja Malaysia (MTUC) menyambut baik pengumuman Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkaitan inisiatif membantu pekerja sempena Sambutan Hari Pekerja 2026.

Setiausaha Agungnya, Kamarul Baharin Mansor berkata, pihaknya menghargai pengumuman antara lain Progressive Acceleration for Capability and Employment (PACE) bagi pembangunan modal insan dan kestabilan pasaran buruh, pindaan Akta Keselamatan Sosial Pekerjaan Sendiri 2017 serta Elaun Pasca Cuti Bersalin (EPCB) sebanyak 80 peratus daripada gaji anggapan bulanan Orang Berinsurans (OB) wanita secara *one-off*.

Bagaimanapun, kata beliau, MTUC ber-

harap kerajaan turut mempertimbangkan pemberian bantuan kepada pekerja yang mempunyai penyakit kritikal seperti kanser, komplikasi jantung, buah pinggang dan lain-lain serta diberikan rawatan di bawah tanggungan Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (PERKESO).

"Selain itu, MTUC harap dana Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) dipanjangkan kepada ahli kesatuan sekerja untuk latihan atau kursus.

"Mungkin boleh pertimbangkan juga tentang pegawai kesatuan yang membantu pekerja dikecualikan daripada cukai kerana pendapatan mereka digunakan bagi menolong golongan ini.

"Akhir sekali, tambahan caruman majikan

dalam Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) bagi memberikan simpanan persaraan yang tinggi," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Anwar ketika menyampaikan amanat pada Sambutan Hari Pekerja 2026 mengumumkan bahawa Kementerian Sumber Manusia (Kesuma) akan melaksanakan Pakej Daya Tahan Ekonomi dinamakan PACE sebagai sebahagian strategi pembangunan modal insan dan kestabilan pasaran buruh.

Selain itu, beliau turut memaklumkan kerajaan bakal meminda Akta Keselamatan Sosial Pekerjaan Sendiri 2017 bagi membolehkan perlindungan diperluas kepada rakyat Malaysia yang bekerja di luar negara, bermula dengan pekerja rentas sempadan Malaysia-Singapura.

## PN kecewa cadangan potong bajet KKM, KPT

**SHAH ALAM** - Perikatan Nasional (PN) menzahirkan kebimbangan serius terhadap cadangan Kementerian Kewangan untuk memotong peruntukan operasi kerajaan berjumlah RM10 bilion daripada keseluruhan Bajet 2026.

Setiausaha Agung PN, Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan berkata, langkah itu amat mengecewakan kerana ia membabitkan pengurangan dana yang besar terhadap dua sektor kritikal iaitu Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dan Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi (KPT).

Beliau berkata, cadangan itu membabitkan potongan sebanyak RM3.06 bilion bagi KKM dan RM2.39 bilion bagi KPT, sekali gus menunjukkan kerajaan seolah-olah hilang pertimbangan dalam menentukan keutamaan rakyat.

"Hanya kira-kira enam bulan lepas, Bajet 2026 menetapkan peruntukan sebanyak RM46.5 bilion kepada KKM dan RM18.6 bilion untuk KPT.

"Namun hari ini, KKM dijangka berdepan kekurangan dana operasi lebih enam peratus, sementara KPT bakal menghadapi potongan lebih besar sehingga 12 peratus," katanya dalam kenyataan.

Menurut Takiyuddin, pengurangan peruntukan itu akan memberi kesan langsung kepada kesejahteraan rakyat memandangkan KKM kini sedang berdepan tekanan besar untuk menyediakan ubat-ubatan, vaksin dan keperluan habis pakai yang dianggarkan mencecah RM6 bilion.

Katanya, angka berkenaan tidak termasuk keperluan RM1.2 bilion untuk tujuan penyelenggaraan serta naik taraf hospital dan klinik di seluruh negara.

"Pengurangan peruntukan hanya akan memburukkan lagi isu tempoh menunggu yang panjang, kesesakan dan penangguhan naik taraf, selain meningkatkan tekanan ke atas petugas kesihatan yang sudah sedia



TAKIYUDDIN

terbeban," ujarnya.

Mengulas mengenai impak terhadap sektor pendidikan tinggi, beliau menjelaskan potongan dana KPT akan menjejaskan penyelenggaraan infrastruktur universiti awam, politeknik dan kolej komuniti.

Malah, ia turut melibatkan peruntukan RM4.4 bilion yang dikhaskan untuk biasiswa,

pinjaman dan bantuan pendidikan kepada pelajar kurang mampu.

"Jika kerajaan benar-benar serius menangani isu disiplin fiskal, mereka sepatutnya mendahulukan masalah pembaziran, ketirisan, projek tidak perlu dan lantikan politik, bukannya menyasarkan hospital serta universiti," tegas beliau.

Sehubungan itu, PN menggesa kerajaan menarik balik cadangan berkenaan dan membentangkan rancangan penjimatan yang lebih adil serta pro-rakyat.

"Negara tidak akan maju jika kesihatan awam dikorbankan, manakala generasi muda dikesampingkan bagi menutup kegagalan pengurusan kerajaan sendiri," katanya.



Laporan *Sinar Harian* pada Jumaat.

Tular Jabatan Kecemasan HKL 'zon perang'

# Kerja naik taraf punca kesesakan

## Projek tampung peningkatan kapasiti pesakit dijangka siap akhir tahun

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**Kuala Lumpur:** Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL) memaklumkan, keadaan di Jabatan Kecemasan dan Trauma HKL yang ditular sebagai 'zon perang' di media sosial sejak Rabu lalu, berpunca daripada kerja naik taraf yang sedang dilaksanakan.

Pengarah HKL, Datuk Dr Harikrishna K R Nair, berkata projek berkenaan ialah perancangan strategik bagi menampung

peningkatan kapasiti pesakit dan kelesaan perkhidmatan.

"Sepanjang tempoh kerja naik taraf, jabatan ini terpaksa beroperasi dalam kawasan yang mengecil sehingga 50 peratus, manakala baki ruang digunakan sebagai laluan projek.

"Walaupun berdepan dengan kekangan ruang, perkhidmatan kesihatan di Jabatan Kecemasan dan Trauma HKL masih lagi diteruskan seperti biasa dengan mengamalkan prinsip 'no wrong door'," katanya menerusi kenyataan semalam.

### Langkah tingkat kelesaan

Dr Harikrishna berkata, projek naik taraf itu dijangka siap sepenuhnya akhir tahun ini dan HKL akan memastikan operasi jabatan itu terus berjalan lancar mengikut prosedur standard operasi (SOP).

Mengulas keadaan infrastruktur yang dilihat uzur, beliau men-



jelaskan, itu bersifat sementara susulan kerja ubah suai yang sedang dijalankan.

"Penambahan kerusi untuk pesakit dan waris juga akan dilaksanakan mengikut kapasiti khemah menunggu sedia ada, ba-

gi meningkatkan lagi kelesaan.

"Pihak pengurusan HKL mengucapkan terima kasih di atas keprihatinan masyarakat dan sentiasa bersikap terbuka menerima cadangan," katanya.

# Yuran doktor pakar bukan punca kos hospital swasta melambung

## Lonjakan dipacu caj ubat, khidmat tambahan ketika terima rawatan

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**Tanggapan** bahawa yuran doktor pakar menjadi punca utama kos rawatan hospital swasta semakin meningkat tidak tepat apabila laporan Bank Dunia menunjukkan sebahagian besar bil pesakit sebenarnya datang daripada caj Perkhidmatan dan Pembekalan Hospital (HSS).

Laporan bertajuk *Cost Drivers in Malaysia's Medical and Health Insurance/Takaful Sector: A First Look at the Centralized Claims Database* mendapati komponen HSS

menyumbang kira-kira 74 peratus daripada jumlah tuntutan pesakit dalam pada 2024.

HSS merangkumi pelbagai caj seperti ubat-ubatan, bahan guna habis, ujian makmal, pengimejan diagnostik, penggunaan peralatan, bilik rawatan serta perkhidmatan sokongan hospital sepanjang tempoh pesakit menerima rawatan.

Peraturan komponen itu menunjukkan peningkatan berterusan berbanding 70 peratus pada 2022 dan 72 peratus pada 2023, sekaligus menjadikannya penyumbang terbesar kepada pertumbuhan kos rawatan hospital swasta.

Sebaliknya, yuran profesional doktor adalah tertakluk kepada lebih kecil dalam keseluruhan tuntutan.

Laporan itu menyatakan, caj doktor adalah tertakluk kepada kawal selia di bawah Jadual 13 Akta Kemudahan dan Perkhidmatan Jagaan Kesihatan Swasta 1998.



### Punyai insentif komersial

Disebabkan yuran doktor lebih terkawal, Bank Dunia menyatakan hospital mempunyai insentif komersial untuk menjana pendapatan melalui komponen HSS yang lebih fleksibel dari segi penetapan harga dan jumlah penggunaan.

Keadaan itu bermakna, peningkatan kos rawatan tidak semes-

tinya berpunca daripada caj konsultasi atau pembedahan pakar, tetapi lebih banyak dipacu oleh caj ubat, bekalan perubatan serta perkhidmatan tambahan yang dicaj sepanjang kemasukan ke hospital.

Laporan berkenaan turut menunjukkan corak sama merentasi pelbagai kategori rawatan, dengan HSS kekal sebagai komponen ter-

besar bagi kebanyakan tuntutan pesakit dalam.

Menurut Bank Dunia, peningkatan bahagian HSS dalam bil rawatan juga memberi tekanan langsung kepada sektor insurans dan takaful perubatan kerana syarikat penanggung perlu membayar tuntutan lebih tinggi setiap tahun.

Tekanan itu akhirnya diterjemahkan kepada pelarasan premium yang lebih mahal kepada pemegang polisi apabila kos tuntutan terus meningkat lebih pantas berbanding kutipan premium.

Laporan itu turut menekankan kepentingan ketelusan harga, khususnya bagi ubat-ubatan dan bahan perubatan, supaya pengguna memahami pecahan sebenar bil rawatan yang diterima.

Selain itu, penambahbaikan data pengebilan dan pemantauan caj hospital dilihat penting bagi memastikan sebarang kenaikan kos adalah munasabah serta sejajar dengan rawatan diberikan.

AMARAN AWAL: PENYAKIT MEMORI KIAN MENINGKAT

# 10% WARGA EMAS KITA HIDAP DEMENSIA

Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia kini berhadapan cabaran kesihatan awam apabila kira-kira 10 peratus rakyat berusia 60 tahun ke atas menghidap demensia, menurut Dapatan Tinjauan Kebangsaan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi (NHMS) 2025.

Dapatan yang diumumkan pada 20 April di Putrajaya mendapati angka itu meningkat berbanding 8.5 peratus pada 2018, sekali gus mencerminkan keperluan mendesak memperkukuh usaha pencegahan dan pengurusan penyakit yang menjejaskan ingatan, pemikiran serta keupayaan menjalani kehidupan harian.

Profesor Perubatan Geriatrik Universiti Malaya Profesor Dr Tan Maw Pin yang mewakili gabungan pertubuhan berkaitan demensia menyifatkan pe-

ningkatan itu sebagai amaran awal supaya kesihatan otak dijadikan keutamaan dalam agenda kesihatan negara.

"Peningkatan kes tidak hanya dipengaruhi faktor usia, tetapi turut dikaitkan dengan beban penyakit tidak berjangkit seperti diabetes, hipertensi, obesiti dan kolesterol tinggi yang merupakan faktor risiko utama kemerosotan kognitif," katanya semalam.

Gabungan itu terdiri daripada Dementia Alliance of Malaysia (DAMAI), Alzheimer's Disease Foun-

dation Malaysia (ADFM), Johor Bahru Alzheimer's Disease Support Association (JOBADA), Dementia Society Perak dan Penang Dementia Association.

Dr Tan berkata, walaupun terdapat penambahbaikan beberapa indikator penuaan sihat seperti penurunan kadar kemurungan dan peningkatan keupayaan warga emas menjalani aktiviti harian, perkembangan masih belum cukup untuk membendung peningkatan demensia.

"Gabungan menggesa kerajaan mempercepat pe-

laksanaan Pelan Tindakan Demensia 2023-2030 termasuk menyediakan peruntukan khusus bagi memastikan keberkesannya," katanya.

Selain itu, gabungan tersebut turut mengutarakan beberapa cadangan utama termasuk memperluas kempen kesedaran awam bagi mengurangkan stigma, memperkukuh saringan awal di fasiliti kesihatan primer serta melaksanakan program pencegahan melibatkan gaya hidup sihat dan pengurusan penyakit kronik.

Gabungan turut mencajagkan agar sokongan lebih menyeluruh kepada penjaga dan keluarga pesakit melalui latihan, perkhidmatan penjagaan gantian serta pengukuhan perkhidmatan komuniti.

"Demensia bukan sekadar isu kesihatan, tetapi turut memberi kesan kepada struktur sosial, produktiviti ekonomi dan kesejahteraan keluarga," katanya.

Beliau berkata, jangkaan Malaysia menjadi negara tua dalam tempoh terdekat juga meningkatkan kebarangkalian pertambahan

pesakit demensia, jika tiada intervensi awal yang berkesan dilaksanakan.

"Melalui tindakan awal dan bersepadu, perkembangan penyakit boleh dilambatkan, pesakit dapat hidup lebih bermaruah dan keluarga menerima sokongan sewajarnya," katanya.

Gabungan itu juga menegaskan pendekatan menyeluruh melibatkan kerajaan, sektor kesihatan, komuniti dan masyarakat amat penting bagi memastikan penjagaan yang lebih baik kepada individu terjejas. - BERNAMA