

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6A

RUANGAN : LOKAL



ORANG awam memakai topeng muka sebagai langkah mencegah influenza ketika berada di tempat awam di ibu kota.

KKM SEKAT INFO INFLUENZA?

Menteri beri sebab

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Serdang

Tidak mahu cetuskan panik, elak kekeliruan dan langkah penyelarasan maklumat.

Itu jawapan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkaitan komen beberapa pihak yang kecewa selain diberikan amaran oleh Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) supaya tidak mengeluarkan kenyataan perkembangan terkini penularan Influenza.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya bertanggung jawab terhadap kesihatan, tetapi tidak menafikan hak mana-mana pihak lain bersama dalam usaha itu.

“Kolaborasi penting un-

tuk semua peringkat di seluruh negeri, tetapi yang lebih mustahak adalah apabila dari segi kenyataan rasmi, influenza ini boleh mencetuskan panik. Oleh itu, KKM sangat berhati-hati membuat kenyataan.

“Saya yakin apa yang dikeluarkan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (KPK) juga boleh merangkum dan menggarap keseluruhan usaha kita mengemaskini maklumat.

“Tidak mahu akhirnya nanti berlaku kekeliruan ketika kita meningkatkan usaha sebaliknya berlaku keadaan panik. Itu adalah posisi kami dan KPK bertanggungjawab keluaran kenyataan,” katanya selepas melancarkan Larian Antibiotik 2020 di Goat2Go Farm, Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia di sini, semalam.



DR Dzulkefly

Hadir sama, Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani, Datuk Seri Salahuddin Ayub dan KPK, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Dzulkefly yakin KPK boleh menyelaraskan maklumat influenza itu dengan semua negeri sama ada kerjasama

dengan Exco Kesihatan, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) dan Jabatan Kesihatan Daerah (JKD).

Diminta supaya KKM mengeluarkan kenyataan terkini harian berkaitan influenza, katanya, jangkitan influenza tidak termasuk di bawah senarai penyakit berjangkit yang wajib dilaporkan.

“Sejak beberapa tahun lalu influenza bukan lagi penyakit yang *notifiable disease* yang maknanya mesti diberitahu. Selain itu, sukar untuk kemas kini senario ataupun kes seluruh negara. Kita melihat keperluan,” katanya.

Kelmarin, kerajaan Terengganu dilaporkan terkilan apabila dihalang KKM mengeluarkan kenyataan perkembangan terkini influenza di negeri itu.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

DIRECTIVE

'INFLUENZA SITUATION NOT DOWNPLAYED'

To avoid public panic, only Health D-G can issue updates, says minister

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THE Health Ministry's decision allowing only its director-general, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, to issue statements on the influenza situation in the country to avoid causing panic

is, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad, denied that a statement was made to down-

play matters involving the infection.

He said the ministry was working with state governments, state Health Departments and relevant parties on cases involving influenza for a more integrated approach to the matter.

"While we do not deny other parties from assisting and collaborating with the ministry to raise awareness, simply issuing statements can trigger public alarm.

"That is why in the statements issued by the ministry's director-general (Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah) will include and comprise a summary of updates on the influenza situation in the country).

"We do not want any distraction to happen and this is the reason why the ministry is careful with this matter as it could cause panic.

"We are not downplaying the matter but are trying to increase our efforts and trying not to create panic among people.

"The director-general will continue to issue statements and I believe he can coordinate with the states from the health departments to the local

council level."

Dr Dzulkefly said this at the Antibiotic Fun Run organised by the Health Ministry and Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry here yesterday.

On Friday, Terengganu Local Government, Housing, Health and Environment Committee



Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (second from right) taking part in the Antibiotic Fun Run in Serdang yesterday. With him is Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Salahuddin Ayub (fourth from left). BERNAMA PIC

chairman Dr Alias Razak said he was disappointed that the Health Ministry had prevented the state government from issuing statements on influenza cases.

It is learnt that the Education Ministry was also told to only release the number of classes closed due to the disease and not to issue any statement involving the number of students found

with influenza.

When asked if it was possible to issue daily updates on the figures, Dr Dzulkefly said influenza was no longer classified as a notifiable disease and it would be difficult to provide daily updates.

He reminded people to practise personal hygiene aside from getting vaccine shots or antiviral medication.



NSTTV

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : NATION

Dzulkefly to probe MO's termination

Minister vows to investigate why doctors' contracts were not renewed

By RAHIMY RAHIM
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SERDANG: The Health Minister has promised a probe into the abrupt termination of two medical officers in Sibu.

Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said he viewed the incident seriously.

"It's unfortunate and we will get to the bottom of the matter. Besides, we need medical officers with such talents.

"I will immediately look into the cases one by one to give full justice," he said when met by reporters at

the closing of the Antibiotic Fun Run 2020 here.

The minister was asked to respond on the incident in which several medical officers had their contract terminated recently.

Two of them - Dr Wong Woan Hui and Dr Bong Ing Hui - from Sibu General Hospital said they were notified on Nov 13 last year that their contracts would not be renewed.

Dr Bong, who got her paediatric degree from the University of Southampton in 2018, had previously turned down an offer to work in Britain.

Their plight was highlighted during a press conference by Sarawak United Peoples' Party education bureau, which also called upon Putrajaya to disclose the criteria for retaining medical officers.

On the influenza situation across the country, Dzulkefly said they would coordinate official statements in order to avoid panic and concerns among the public.

He said they had no intention to deny the efforts made by others including at the state level.

"We are careful when issuing statements. But I am confident that the statements by the director-

general of health will cover all the necessary information and latest updates," he said in response to remarks by Terengganu health exco Dr Alias Razak, who was upset that the state could no longer give updates on the situation.

Dzulkefly said that influenza was no longer classified as a "notifiable disease" and would be difficult for the ministry to give a daily update.

Asked why it has spread in schools, he said hygiene was among the factors that contributed to the problem.

"It is important to go back to the basics, protecting hygiene by wash-

ing hands, for instance," he said.

Dzulkefly also said there was sufficient influenza vaccines to meet the demand of patients.

"But I hope there will be no profiteering during this difficult time.

"We must protect the interest and the health of the people," he said.

On Saturday, the minister tweeted that 16,800 doses had arrived in Malaysia.

"15,000 doses by Jan 20. 67,000 doses by Jan 27.

"Around 100,000 doses arriving in Jan. Another 100,000 doses to arrive in the next two to three weeks," he posted.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Healthcare providers urged to stop profiteering

He said pricing also depended on how much suppliers charged the clinics.

A tweet on the prices of flu vaccines sent last Saturday by Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad drew vast response on social media, with many complaining that clinics were overcharging.

A tweet by @Syamsul_azuar stated that while it was important to get vaccinated, the demand had also led to some clinics

hiking prices.

Dzulkefly, who was at the Antibiotic Fun Run 2020 in Serdang yesterday, said it was not within the powers of the government to put a ceiling price on drugs.

However, he urged doctors to ensure that they charged a fair price.

"I plead for all healthcare providers to stop profiteering in this difficult times. We are in this together to help care for the

people," he said.

The country is expected to see a new supply of about 200,000 doses of the vaccine soon to meet the high demand.

Dzulkefly said 16,800 doses had already arrived yesterday, with another 15,000 doses expected today.

"Over and above that, there will be another batch of 67,000 doses come Jan 27, bringing the total to close to 100,000 doses this month."

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