

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 2
 RUANGAN : MUKA DUA

Penularan COVID-19

Dua petunjuk tamatkan PKP

Pertimbangan termasuk kadar kebolehjangkitan atau jumlah kes positif COVID-19 dalam komuniti

Kuala Lumpur: Keputusan menamatkan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) yang dilaksanakan sejak 18 Mac lalu di seluruh negara, boleh dicapai berpandukan dua petunjuk utama.

Memperincikan perkara itu, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata pertimbangan pertama adalah kadar kes kebolehjangkitan atau jumlah pesakit positif COVID-19 yang direkodkan dalam kalangan masyarakat.

Katanya, kadar kebolehjangkitan di Malaysia yang dikira daripada perbezaan jumlah kes baharu dan individu pulih itu, setakat ini berjumlah 2,198 kes.

"Unjuran kebolehjangkitan kita sebelum ini adalah 2,033 menjelang 14 April, justeru ia 'lari' sedikit iaitu sekitar 150 kes.

"Oleh itu, sekiranya kita ingin tamatkan PKP, antara faktor atau petunjuk yang perlu diambil kira ialah kadar kebolehjangkitan atau jumlah kes positif COVID-19 dalam komuniti.

"Kita kena ada strategi untuk tamatkan PKP dengan meletakkan sasaran mengurangkan kes jangkitan dalam komuniti," ka-

tanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19 di Putrajaya, semalam.

Beliau mengulas kes penularan COVID-19 di negara ini yang menunjukkan trend positif apabila kadar pulih melebihi kes baharu lima hari berturut-turut sejak 13 April lalu hingga semalam, selain jumlah kes di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) juga berkurangan.

Jumlah kumulatif mingguan sejak PKP dilaksanakan juga mula menunjukkan penurunan apabila mencatatkan 1,024 kes pada minggu keempat (8 April hingga 14 April), berbanding 1,197 pada minggu ketiga (1 April hingga 7 April).

Mengenai petunjuk kedua, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kementeriannya akan menasihatkan kerajaan untuk menamatkan PKP, bersandarkan pemerhatian bagi kes seperti influenza (ILI) dan jangkitan pernafasan akut teruk (SARI), yang dijalankan sejak Januari lalu.

"Sekarang ada 114 kes berkaitan SARI dan ILI dalam komuniti, justeru kita akan teruskan aktiviti pengesanan serta saringan bagi mengurangkan kadar kebolehjangkitan daripada kes ini.

"Kita juga akan melihat kawasan yang mempunyai kepadatan tinggi bagi mengesan kewujudan kluster, sekali gus mengekang penularan wabak dalam kalangan komuniti.

"Selain itu, kita perlu mempertingkatkan keupayaan makmal bagi pengesanan kes dan perkhidmatan rawatan di hospital.

"Langkah ini perlu bagi memastikan kita dapat menampung ju-



Kita juga akan melihat kawasan yang mempunyai kepadatan tinggi bagi mengesan kewujudan kluster, sekali gus mengekang penularan wabak dalam kalangan komuniti.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

mlah pesakit yang datang dan beriklan rawatan terbaik," katanya.

Menyentuh sasaran lanjut dalam PKP Fasa 3, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kementerian berazam menurunkan kadar kebolehjangkitan kepada sekitar 500 hingga 1,000 kes.

Sekiranya sasaran itu berupaya dicapai, katanya, perkhidmatan rawatan di hospital akan ditum-

puikan kepada kluster lain yang boleh mencetuskan peningkatan kadar kebolehjangkitan.

"Sekiranya tiada kes positif dalam komuniti, kita boleh kurangkan penularan COVID-19," katanya.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berharap, pembelian kit ujian secara cepat atau 'rapid test kit' dari Korea Selatan yang menunjukkan kadar keberkesanan memuatkan secara pukal, diharap menurunkan harganya yang ketika ini kurang RM50.

Beliau berkata, kit ujian pengesanan pantas bersandarkan antigen itu akan digunakan terhadap individu yang menjalani kuarantin pada hari ke-13.

Pakar virologi, Prof Dr Sazaly Abu Bakar, pula berkata trend kes pulih melebihi jangkitan baharu selama lima hari berturut-turut dan penurunan jumlah kumulatif kes baharu mingguan, mengamburkan PKP berjaya mengawal penularan COVID-19.

Bagaimanapun, beliau berkata, kepentingan mengekalkan trend penurunan itu sehingga PKP Fasa 3 berakhir pada 28 April depan, sebelum kerajaan boleh memutuskan untuk menamatkan pelaksanaan PKP.

"Jika mahu tamatkan PKP, jumlah kumulatif kes baharu mingguan perlu terus turun sehingga kurang daripada 50 kes dalam tempoh dua minggu ini.

"Jika kita berjaya mencapai tahap itu, ia bermakna jumlah individu boleh menjangkiti wabak itu dalam komuniti sangat rendah, sekali gus PKP boleh ditamatkan," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Sazaly berkata, satu lagi faktor yang perlu diambil kira sebelum PKP ditamatkan ialah keperluan KKM mengetahui kadar jangkitan COVID-19 dalam komuniti.

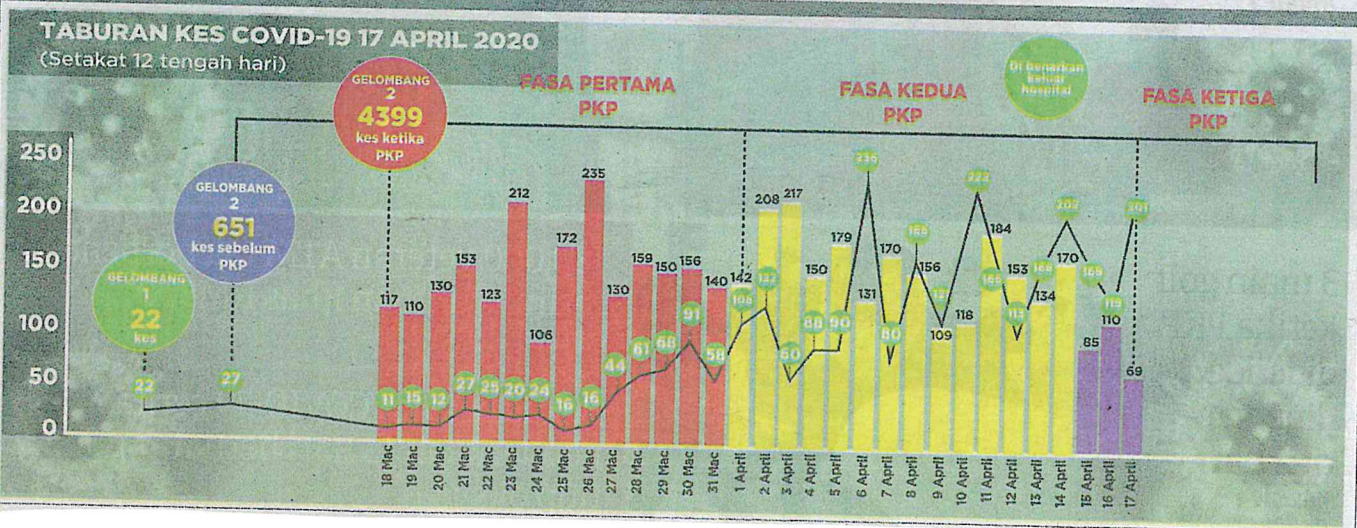
Katanya, kadar jangkitan dalam komuniti boleh diukur menerusi saringan bagi mengesan antibodi terhadap sejumlah orang awam secara rawak dari seluruh negara.

Menerusi pengesanan itu, katanya, KKM dapat mengetahui peratusan individu positif COVID-19 dalam komuniti, namun tidak bergejala dan kemungkinan ia berjangkit semula selepas PKP ditamatkan.

"Contohnya, saringan dibuat dalam kalangan satu hingga tiga peratus daripada kira-kira 10 juta orang dewasa di seluruh negara. Hasil saringan itu nanti akan menggambarkan kadar jangkitan wabak ini dalam komuniti.

"Kadar ini penting untuk persiapan kerajaan, industri, sekolah, universiti dan lain-lain bagi berdepan penularan semula COVID-19 pasca PKP, khususnya dari segi jumlah topeng muka dan cecair pembasmi kuman yang perlu disediakan serta sama ada penjarakan sosial perlu terus diamalkan.

"Jika tiada data ini, kita berisiko menjadi seperti Jepun, yang menarik perintah berkurung terlalu awal tanpa memiliki maklumat ini menyebabkan penularan semula COVID-19 yang lebih teruk hingga perintah berkurung terpaksa dilaksanakan semula," katanya.



AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Kekang penularan wabak di kalangan pekerja warga asing

Elak risiko jangkitan seperti berlaku di Singapura

Putrajaya: Malaysia kini perlu lebih waspada terhadap penularan pandemik COVID-19 dalam kalangan pekerja warga asing, bagi mengelak kejadian yang berlaku di Singapura, menimpa negara ini.

Penularan COVID-19 di asrama pekerja asing, dilaporkan menyumbang lebih daripada 50 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes positif COVID-19 di negara sebarang tambak itu.

Menyadari bahaya situasi terbahit, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengambil langkah lebih proaktif bagi mencegah penula-

ran wabak COVID-19 dalam kalangan warga asing di negara ini.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata langkah terbabit diambil selepas melihat peningkatan kes positif di Singapura yang dikaitkan dengan penularan virus berkenaan di asrama pekerja asing.

"Memandangkan Malaysia juga mempunyai ramai pekerja asing, langkah pencegahan perlu diambil bagi mencegah penularan COVID-19, khususnya dalam kalangan warga asing berkenaan.

"Bagi industri yang menggunakan ramai tenaga kerja, majikan bertanggung jawab memastikan langkah berkenaan dapat dilaksanakan di tempat kerja seperti pemeriksaan suhu badan dan gejala sebelum memasuki premis.

"Menyediakan tempat mencuci tangan atau cecair pembasmi kuman, kerap melaksanakan proses

pembersihan dan pembasmi kuman terutamanya ruang guna sama serta mengamalkan jarak sosial selamat iaitu sekurang-kurangnya satu meter termasuk di ruang kerja dan ruang makan," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19 di sini semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, majikan juga perlu mengelakkan pekerja mereka berkumpul di ruang sempit (confined space) dan elakkan terlalu ramai pekerja bersama dalam satu masa (congregation) serta amalkan jarak satu meter ketika bercakap (close conversation).

"Sekiranya tempat tinggal disediakan, langkah pencegahan terutama amalan jarak sosial semalam dan kebersihan tangan dan diri perlu ditekankan.

"Pekerja yang mempunyai keaduan sendiri juga perlu mematuhi dan mengamalkan langkah

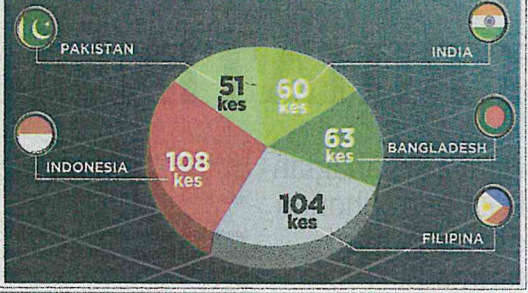
Kes positif COVID-19 dalam kalangan warga asing di Malaysia

Sehingga 16 April 2020, jam 12 tengah hari

KES POSITIF COVID-19	601 kes
KES SEDANG DIRAWAT	356 kes
KES TELAH PULIH	242 kes
KES KEMATIAN	3 kes

Dalam kalangan warga asing termasuk imigran, pekerja asing, pelancong, dan pemohon suaka

Dalam jumlah tersebut, antara negara utama adalah:



pencegahan berkenaan di samping mengambil inisiatif sendiri untuk kerap menjalankan sanitasi dan pembersihan rumah masing-masing," katanya.

Beliau berkata, KKM turut bekerjasama dengan Pesuruhjaya Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu Bagi Pelarian (UNHCR) bagi memastikan golongan pelarian dan pemohon suaka yang berada di negara ini, turut bersama dalam pencegahan dan kawalan dilaksana kerajaan.

"Malah KKM turut bekerjasama dengan kedua-dua negara-negara berkenaan di Malaysia dan badan bukan kerajaan (NGO) berkaitan supaya dapat membantu dalam menyampaikan maklumat kepada warga asing di negara ini menggunakan bahasa ibunda masing-masing," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, setakat ini, 601 kes positif COVID-19 dalam kalangan warga asing dikesan di negara ini, kebanyakannya adalah dalam kalangan pelancong, pekerja asing, golongan pelarian dan pemohon suaka.

"Daripada jumlah dikesan itu, seramai 356 kes sedang menerima

rawatan, 242 kes sudah pulih sepenuhnya dan dibenarkan pulang, tiga kematian direkodkan.

"Antara negara utama yang mencatatkan jumlah kes COVID-19 di negara ini ialah, 108 kes terdiri daripada warga Indonesia, Filipina (104 kes), Bangladesh (63 kes), India (60 kes) dan Pakistan (51 kes)," katanya.

Mengulas mengenai kluster kilang yang dikesan di Pasir Gudang, Johor, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, ia mempunyai persamaan dengan kluster Hospital Likas apabila punca jangkitan bukan berasal daripada persekitaran kilang di daerah berkenaan.

Sebaliknya, beliau berkata, virus COVID-19 dipercayai dibawa dari luar, sebelum disebarkan pekerja kilang terbabit yang sehingga kini merekodkan 10 kes positif.

"Kita ada pertambahan satu kes positif (semalam), menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 10 kes kluster kilang di Pasir Gudang, tetapi hasil tindakan cepat dan tepat, jangkitan berupaya ditangani daripada terus merebak," katanya.



KKM menjalankan saringan COVID-19 terhadap pekerja warga asing di sekitar Kampung Baru untuk mencegah penularan wabak. (Foto Asyraf Hamzah/BH)

10 kes positif individu pulang dari luar negara

Kuala Lumpur: Setakat ini, hanya 10 kes positif COVID-19 direkodkan dalam kalangan individu yang pulang dari luar negara dan menjalani perintah kuarantin wajib, sejak 3 April lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, menjelaskan perangkaan semasa menunjukkan kira-kira 15,000 individu ditempatkan di pusat kuarantin dan hotel, selepas pulang dari luar negara.

Berdasarkan jumlah itu, katanya, hanya 0.07 peratus disahkan

positif jangkitan COVID-19 dan ditempatkan di hospital untuk mendapatkan rawatan lanjut.

"Kita ada lebih 112 pusat kuarantin dan kesemua lokasi ini digunakan untuk menempatkan mereka yang pulang dari luar negara serta perlu menjalani arahan kuarantin wajib sejak 3 April lalu.

"Saya dimaklumkan, setakat ini jumlah yang positif daripada kumpulan dari luar negara adalah hanya 10 kes," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, di

Saya dimaklumkan, setakat ini jumlah yang positif daripada kumpulan dari luar negara adalah hanya 10 kes.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

Putrajaya, semalam.

Mengulas kluster di Sabah, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, ia dikesan membabitkan Wad Melur di Hospital Likas, namun punca penularan jangkitan dipercayai daripada persekitaran luar.

Berdasarkan pengesanan kontak, katanya, penularan yang sehingga kini membabitkan 14 petugas kesihatan di hospital terbabit dipercayai berpunca daripada sebuah majlis perkahwinan di Ipoh.

"Kes pertama dilaporkan pada

27 Mac lalu, ia mungkin berasal daripada perkahwinan di Ipoh dan apabila individu yang dijangkiti itu balik ke Hospital Likas, virus berkenaan disebarkan.

"Punca jangkitan juga bukan dari wad, tetapi ruang sempit di bahagian tempat makan yang berkemungkinan menyaksikan ramai petugas kesihatan berkumpul pada suatu masa.

"Semua yang positif kini diasingkan dan sedang menjalani tempoh kuarantin," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19



Sebahagian penduduk Kampong Bharu, Kuala Lumpur beratur menunggu giliran untuk melakukan pemeriksaan saringan Covid-19 di Sekolah Rendah Agama Jalan Raja Muda Musa semalam.

Penduduk Kampong Bharu jalani saringan Covid-19

KUALA LUMPUR - Lebih 600 penduduk Kampong Bharu di sini menjalani ujian saringan Covid-19 sesi pertama semalam berikutan kawasan itu diwartakan sebagai zon merah.

Ini merupakan hasil kejayaan hebahkan efektif Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) untuk tampil pada hari pertama ujian saringan itu di Sekolah Rendah Agama Jalan Raja Muda Musa dan seterusnya empat lagi sesi ujian saringan itu sehingga 21 April ini.

Setiausaha Kehormat merangkap Pemangku Naib Yang Dipertua Lembaga Pentadbiran Penempatan Pertanian Melayu (MAS),

Shamsuri Suradi berkata, ujian saringan itu wajib ke atas setiap penduduk yang berada dalam kawasan Kampong Bharu untuk menjalani ujian saringan bagi tujuan pengesanan awal pandemik Covid-19.

"Jumlah ini mengatasi sasaran iaitu 400 orang bagi hari pertama. Ujian saringan dilakukan berikutan kawasan Kampong Bharu merupakan kawasan berdekatan dengan Selangor Mansion dan Malayan Mansion," katanya.

Menurut Shamsuri, penduduk diwajibkan membuat ujian, namun pesakit kronik dan pesakit tidak boleh bergerak adalah dikecualikan.

Ujian saringan bermula 9 pagi berakhir pada jam 2 petang itu diketuai oleh Pegawai Perubatan, Dr Suliana Mohamad Shuib dan Dr Aida Azlan dengan dibantu 30 petugas kesihatan.

Pekerja pentadbiran, Nor Khamisah Ahmad, 27, berkata, dia mendapat maklumat mengenai ujian saringan itu melalui mesej WhatsApp apabila dihubungi ketua kampung kawasan itu.

"Saringan ini penting kerana kawasan ini berhampiran dengan kawasan PKPD (Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan). Saya lega kerana dengan adanya proses saringan secara percuma ini, harapnya saya tiada apa-apa masalah," katanya - *Bernama*

Warga Indonesia paling ramai

Sebanyak 108 kes positif Covid-19 melibatkan warga Indonesia di Malaysia

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIRAH**
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN dan
NURUL HUDA HUSAIN

PUTRAJAYA

Warga Indonesia paling ramai dijangkiti wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) dalam kalangan orang asing di negara ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, sebanyak 108 kes melibatkan warga Indonesia diikuti oleh warga Filipina dengan 104 kes.

"Warga Bangladesh pula mencatatkan 63 kes, warga India (60) dan warga Pakistan (51)," katanya pada sidang media mengenai perkembangan terkini Covid-19 di kementeriannya di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, sehingga jam 12 tengah hari kelmarin, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengesan 601 kes positif Covid-19 dalam kalangan warga asing.

"Sebanyak 356 sedang dirawat, 242 telah pulih dan tiga disahkan meninggal dunia akibat jangkitan Covid-19," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kesemua pesakit warga asing terdiri daripada kumpulan pelancong, pekerja dan golongan pelarian serta pemohon suaka.

Mengambil iktibar daripada peningkatan lebih 50 peratus kes dikaitkan dengan penularan di asrama pekerja di Singapura, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, langkah-langkah pencegahan perlu diam-

Kes Positif COVID-19 Dalam Kalangan Bukan Warganegara Malaysia

Sehingga 16 April 2020, jam 12 tengah hari



Kes	
Kes positif COVID-19	601
Kes sedang dirawat	356
Kes telah pulih	242
Kes kematian	3

Dalam kalangan bukan warganegara Malaysia termasuk imigran, pekerja asing, pelancong, golongan pelarian dan pemohon suaka (Asylum seeker).

Daripada jumlah tersebut, antara negara utama adalah:

	108 kes warganegara Indonesia
	104 kes warganegara Filipina
	63 kes warganegara Bangladesh
	60 kes warganegara India
	51 kes warganegara Pakistan



Sebanyak 356 sedang dirawat, 242 telah pulih dan tiga disahkan meninggal dunia akibat jangkitan Covid-19.

bil oleh majikan khususnya bagi mencegah penularan wabak dalam kalangan warga asing.

"Bagi industri yang menggunakan banyak tenaga kerja termasuk dalam kalangan warga asing, majikan bertanggungjawab untuk memastikan langkah-langkah pencegahan dilaksanakan di tempat kerja seperti pemeriksaan suhu badan dan gejala sebelum memasuki premis, penyediaan tempat mencuci tangan atau cecair pembasmi kuman.

"Majikan digalakkan kerap melaksanakan proses pembersihan dan pembasmi kuman terutamanya ruang guna sama selain amalan

jarak sosial selamat satu meter di ruang kerja dan ruang makan bagi mengelakkan pekerja tidak berkumpul di ruang sempit," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM bekerjasama dengan United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) bagi memastikan golongan pelarian dan pemohon suaka turut diliputi dalam aktiviti pencegahan dan kawalan yang dilaksanakan oleh pihak kerajaan.

"KKM bekerjasama rapat dengan kedutaan negara-negara berkenaan dan juga pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) yang berkaitan agar dapat membantu KKM dalam usaha penyebaran dan penyampaian maklumat kepada warga asing di Malaysia dalam bahasa ibunda masing-masing.

"National IHR Focal Points (NFPs) dari negara berkaitan juga akan dimaklumkan mengenai kes positif Covid-19 dalam kalangan warga asing negara masing-masing di Malaysia," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Hanya 69 kes baharu

Jumlah kes positif di Malaysia setakat semalam ialah 5,251

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIRAH TUAN MUHAMAD ANDNAN**

PUTRAJAYA

Selepas 85 kes baharu positif koronavirus (Covid-19) dilaporkan minggu lalu, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sekali lagi merekodkan jumlah terendah sejak 14 Mac lalu dengan 69 kes semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ia menjadikan jumlah kes positif Covid-19 di negara ini sebanyak 5,251 kes setakat ini.

“Jumlah kes aktif adalah 2,198 kes. Mereka telah diasingkan dan diberi rawatan,” katanya pada sidang akhbar perkembangan terkini Covid-19 di kementerianannya di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, sehingga kini, seramai 51 kes sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan daripada jumlah tersebut, sebanyak 26 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

Beliau berkata, terdapat 201 kes yang telah pulih dan dibenarkan discaj semalam.



Dr Noor Hisham menunjukkan kadar 56.50 peratus kesembuhan keseluruhan kes pada sidang media harian berkaitan jangkitan Covid-19 di Kementerian Kesihatan, Putrajaya semalam.

“Ini menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes yang telah pulih sepenuhnya daripada Covid-19 dan telah discaj dari wad adalah sebanyak 2,967 kes iaitu 56.5 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

“Bilangan kes yang didiscaj hari ini (semalam) adalah hampir tiga kali ganda bilangan kes baharu yang dilaporkan,” katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat dua kematian baharu dilaporkan kepada Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat (CPRC) Kebangsaan.

“Ia melibatkan dua lelaki berusia 85 tahun masing-masing yang mempunyai penyakit kronik.

“Ini menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kematian 86 kes iaitu 1.64 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan,” katanya.

Hanya Sungai Lui catat kes baharu

PUTRAJAYA - Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) yang dilaksanakan di lima kawasan menunjukkan perkembangan positif apabila hanya Sungai Lui yang mencatatkan kes baharu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) merekodkan dua kes positif baharu di Sungai Lui, Hulu Langat.

“Ini menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes di kawasan tersebut sebanyak 131 kes,” katanya.

Menurutnya, tiada kes baharu dilaporkan di empat kawasan PKPD yang lain.

“Bandar Baharu Dato’ Ibrahim Majid kekal 183 kes, lain-lain lokaliti di luar kawasan Bandar Baharu Dato’ Ibrahim Majid 38 kes.

“Kawasan di luar Sungai Lui sebanyak 312 kes, Menara City One (39 kes), Malayan Mansion (4 kes) dan Selangor Mansion (84 kes) serta sekitar Masjid India tiada sebarang kes positif,” katanya.

Beliau berkata, setakat ini lima kematian direkodkan di keseluruhan kawasan PKPD.

“Ia membabitkan empat kematian di Bandar Baharu Dato’ Ibrahim Majid dan satu kematian membabitkan warga Pakistan di Menara City One,” katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM telah mendaftar dan meluluskan penggunaan ubat antiviral baharu, Remdesivir bagi merawat pesakit Covid-19.

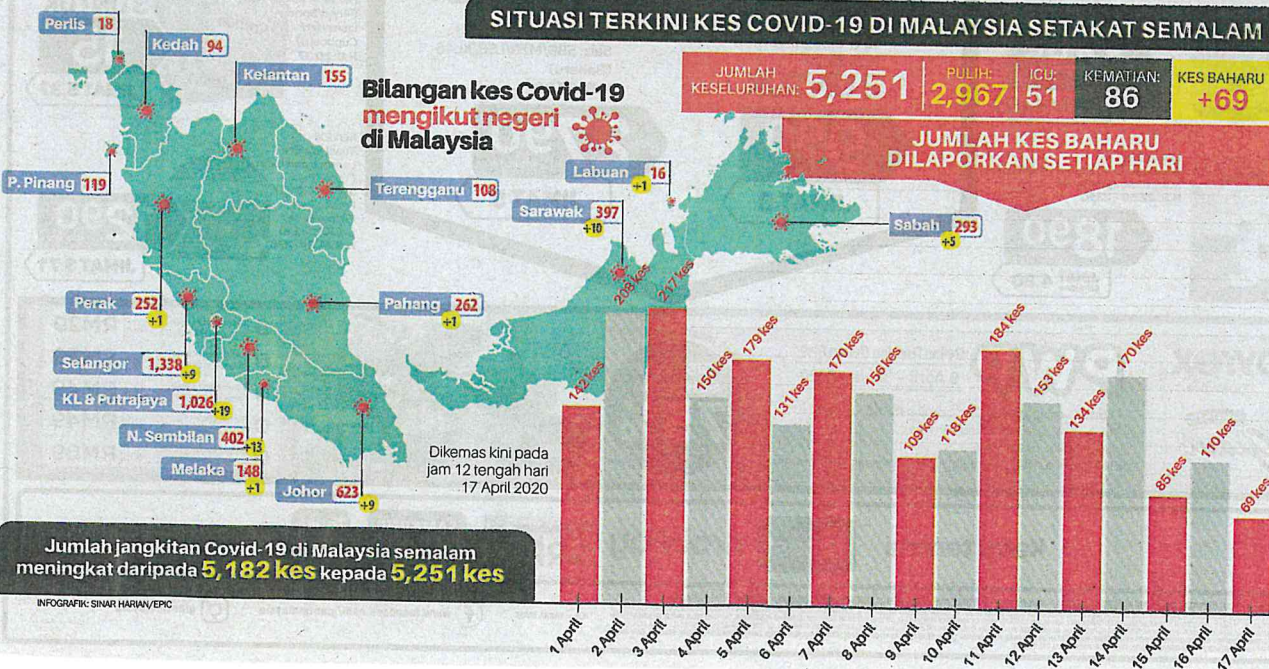
“Remdesivir baru sahaja didaftarkan dan kita masih memantau penggunaan,” katanya.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM

Bilangan kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia

JUMLAH KESELURUHAN: **5,251** | PULIH: **2,967** | ICU: **51** | KEMATIAN: **86** | KES BAHARU: **+69**

JUMLAH KES BAHARU DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI



Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada **5,182 kes** kepada **5,251 kes**

INFOGRAFIK: SINAR HARWA/EPIC

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

REPORTS BY: Adib Povera, Arfa Yunus, Nor Ain Mohamed Radhi, Rahmat Khairulrijal, Tharanya Arumugam, Khairah N. Karim, Teoh Pei Ying, Esther Landau, Teh Athira Yusof, Dennis Chua, Nur Zarina Othman, Meera Murugesan, Zahratulhayat Mat Arif, Olivia Miwil and Mohd Roji Kawi

SEVERE SHORTAGE CONCERN

VIRUS SCARE SEES BLOOD BANKS GO DRY

Many shying away from donating blood over unwarranted fear of Covid-19 infection

KUALA LUMPUR

THE Covid-19 pandemic has affected not only the health and livelihood of many Malaysians, but has also given rise to a new set of problems for blood banks.

Blood banks are in desperate need of donors to keep supplies at a healthy level. However, the pandemic had led to many shying away from donating blood out of fear of contracting the coronavirus.

The authorities are concerned that with fewer donors, supply levels could reach new lows come Ramadan, when Muslims would not be able to donate in the daytime due to fasting.

This, they said, could lead to severe shortage problems in the event of a disaster.

National Blood Centre (PDN) director Dr Noryati Abu Amin said on average, 2,000 blood bags were collected daily, including 500 bags at the centre.

However, since the Movement Control Order (MCO) began, the number had dropped by 30 to 50 per cent.

"Nevertheless, we are doing our best to provide blood supplies to the same number of hospitals as before," she said.

Keeping blood banks fully supplied, she said, was critical as hospitals had to cater to accident victims, pregnant women with bleeding complications, premature babies, cancer patients, patients with blood disorders, such as thalassaemia, as well as those undergoing life-threatening surgeries.

Blood supplies, she added, had

to be collected each day because red blood cells, plasma and platelets have a short shelf life as they will naturally expire.

"After being collected, red blood cells can last for 35 to 42 days in refrigerated temperature.

"Platelets can be stored for five days, while plasma can last up to two years."

Dr Noryati said at the moment, PDN had adequate supply to cater to hospitals for urgent transfusion needs.

However, she said, they had to be prepared for any situation.

"A sudden increase in need for blood may happen during an emergency or a disaster.

"This is why PDN and all blood banks need to have around five to seven days' worth of blood stocks at all times as part of our readiness and contingency plans.

"This is why it's important to keep donating as PDN and blood banks need to continually replenish their reserves and be prepared to deal with anything that might spike demand.

"With the reduction in trend as compared with previous years, we are requesting for blood donors to come forward and donate regularly to PDN or blood banks nearest to them to ensure continuous supply."

She said PDN and other blood banks would need to boost its blood stock soon as during Ramadan, Muslim blood donors would be unable to donate in the daytime.

She said most scheduled blood donation campaigns had been cancelled in the wake of the Covid-19 scare, as well as the MCO. However, she understood the public's concerns over whether they could become infected with Covid-19 by donating blood.

"We would like to stress that donating blood is a safe process, and people should not hesitate to donate.

"Blood donors are not at risk of contracting Covid-19 through the



blood donation process, as SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, is a respiratory virus.

"No cases of transfusion-transmission have emerged in the past two decades, even during the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and MERS-CoV (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus) periods."

With the MCO in place, PDN and other blood banks have adjusted their procedures for regular and first-time donors to donate blood.

"There are three ways prospective donors can make travelling to donation centres easier during this period. First, regular donors are advised to bring along their blood donation book or card on their way to the venue.

"Secondly, prospective donors can first register online at reg-donor.bbis.moh.gov.my and print the form emailed to them, prior to departing to the venue.

"And third, prospective donors can also request for an appointment slip from the nearest blood bank.

"The slip will then be emailed to them prior to their going to the site," she said.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY



People donating blood at Kompleks Masyarakat Penyayang in George Town, Penang, last month. PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

Penang Hospital goes extra mile to get donors

GEORGE TOWN: With most people being afraid to donate blood due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Penang Hospital has been forced to adapt and find fresh ways to encourage donors to come forward.

Dr Anizah Arshad, the hospital's transfusion medicine specialist, said the hospital had implemented new measures to assure people that it was safe to donate blood.

"Instead of coming to the hospital, donors can instead go to Kompleks Masyarakat Penyayang in George Town, which is outside the hospital compound," she said.

"At the blood donation centres, donors will have their temperatures checked and will be given hand sanitisers. Donors are seated apart in line with social distancing guidelines.

"The seats are also sanitised to ensure that they are safe for the next donors."

She said they had also made it easier for donors to travel during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period.

Regular donors, she said, would be contacted to ask if they were interested in donating blood.

"If they agree, we will issue them with a declaration form (to be shown to the authorities) listing the details of the venue and time for the donation process.

"First-timers, on the other hand, can contact us and fill up a Google form, to which we would reply with a declaration form that they can fill up and show to police manning roadblocks.

"This is also a way of limiting the number of people who show

up at the donation centre."

Dr Anizah said the hospital had postponed many elective medical cases in the wake of the pandemic.

However, there were still patients who required blood transfusions.

"Our priority now is to supply blood to those in need of transfusion, such as thalassaemia patients and patients undergoing chemotherapy.

"For those undergoing chemotherapy, their haemoglobin (red blood cells) and platelet counts will be lower after each session.

"These are the ones who need regular blood transfusions. Their lives depend on it."

She said the number of blood bags collected daily was lower than usual.

"From an average of 100 bags

daily, we now collect around 30 to 50 blood bags."

Penang Hospital and Seberang Jaya Hospital currently serve as the centres for blood bank collection and supplies.

Dr Anizah said as such, they conducted forecasts on blood supply needs and communicated actively with blood banks and district medical facilities.

She said hospitals were trying their best to meet demand despite the dwindling number of donors.

"Each blood bank has its own 'critical' threshold.

"We will not let our supplies reach that level.

"This is also why we keep in close contact with our regular donors to ensure that supplies are maintained at a healthy level."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

'EXIT STRATEGY'

'FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN LIFTING MCO'

For one, there must be a consistent decline in Covid-19 cases, says Health director-general

PUTRAJAYA

A GOOD "exit strategy" is crucial to ensure the number of Covid-19 cases won't rise after the Movement Control Order (MCO) is lifted.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said for the MCO to be lifted, there needs to be a consistent decline in Covid-19 cases as well as surveillance on influenza-like illnesses (ILI) and severe acute res-

piratory infection (SARI) cases.

"Today, we have 5,251 Covid-19 cases in total, with 2,967 of them recovered and 86 deaths recorded. If we deduct the number of patients who have recovered and the deaths, we have a total of 2,198 positive cases.

"Based on our projection for April 14, we were supposed to have 2,033 positive cases. There is a 150-case difference. There is a possibility of patients transmitting the disease to others while undergoing treatment.

"Currently, we have 2,198 positive cases undergoing treatment. If there is a decline, it means that we have reduced the number of infections in the community, from one person to another," he said at a press conference yesterday.

On surveillance of ILI and SARI cases, he said: "There are currently 114 cases (ILI and SARI). We

could see a decline in SARI cases based on the screening and monitoring processes.

"If we see a decline in SARI (cases), it's an indication that we can advise the National Security Council to end the MCO."

He said another factor to consider was whether there were new Covid-19 clusters.

He said acute case detection was carried out from time to time to contain the spread of Covid-19.

He said laboratory capacity to detect cases "fast and accurately" was also a factor in deciding on whether to end the MCO.

"The other factor is hospital capacity. So far, asymptomatic and mild cases are also admitted to hospital for monitoring and 4.9 per cent of the overall number of cases are in the Intensive Care Unit. There are also fewer patients who need ventilator support."



Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah giving an update on Covid-19 in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

The World Health Organisation had outlined six conditions that governments must fulfil before restrictions to contain Covid-19 infections could be lifted.

Among them are ensuring that the disease transmission is under control; health systems are able to detect, test, isolate and treat every case and trace every contact; and, that hotspot risks are minimised in vulnerable places, such as nursing homes.

The other conditions are that schools, workplaces and other essential places should have established preventive measures; ensure that the risk of importing new cases "can be managed"; and, ensure that communities are fully educated, engaged and empowered to live under a new normal.

Dr Noor Hisham said Malaysia saw a downward trend in the

number of individuals who test positive for Covid-19.

"Today, I think it is the best day as we only recorded 69 cases, bringing the cumulative number to 5,251.

"What is more important is to look into the trend. We are monitoring it every day in terms of SARI and ILI cases as well as looking into the locations.

"It is more important to identify cluster cases to ensure there are no new clusters in any new areas. Hopefully, we can trace such cases through contact tracing."

Malaysia recorded 35 Covid-19 cases on March 14. Since then, the number of new daily cases have been on the rise, with at least 100 cases a day most days.

The total number of Covid-19 recoveries stand at 2,967, or 56.5 per cent of total cases.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
 MUKA SURAT : 4
 RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation globally (As at 7pm April 17, 2020)												
Asean+							Malaysia		New cases	Total cases	Total deaths	Total recovered
	India	S. Korea	Japan	Indonesia	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam	Brunei	Cambodia	Myanmar	Laos
Confirmed cases	13,495	10,635	9,231	5,923	5,878	4,427	2,700	268	136	122	85	19
Deaths	448	230	190	520	387	10	47	0	1	0	4	0
Recovered	1,777	7,829	935	607	487	683	1,689	198	112	98	2	2
Global Top 10												
	US	Spain	Italy	France	Germany	UK	China	Iran	Turkey	Belgium		
Confirmed cases	678,210	184,948	168,941	165,027	138,135	103,093	82,692	77,995	74,193	36,138		
Deaths	34,641	19,315	22,170	4,093	4,093	13,729	4,632	4,869	1,643	5,163		
Recovered	57,844	74,797	40,164	32,812	81,800	N/A	77,944	52,229	7,089	7,961		

69 new cases, lowest since MCO started

Ministry: We are still not out of the woods

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr and MARTIN CARVALHO
 newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia recorded 69 new Covid-19 cases – its lowest-ever daily rise since the start of the movement control order (MCO) a month ago.

It is also the second time this week that the number of new daily infections is in double digits and not three.

(There were 85 cases on Wednesday, while 110 infections were recorded on Thursday.)

Despite the positive outlook, the Health Ministry has cautioned that the country is still not out of the woods.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said there were still 2,168 active cases in the country and it was vital to bring that number down.

"Although today (yesterday) we recorded 69 new cases, which is a good day for us. More importantly

we must reduce the number of active and infective cases by 2,000 or 1,500.

"When the number of active cases are fewer, then it is easier for the ministry to manage the pandemic, and turn the focus on hot-spots as well as high risk groups.

"If the number of active and infective cases is under control, it means that we have managed to control the spread of the virus within the community," he said at the ministry's daily Covid-19 press conference here yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said the first two phases of the MCO had helped to keep the Covid-19 figures under control, and added that it was crucial to step up control measures in this third phase.

But to end the MCO would depend on many indicators, he said.

"If we want to lift the MCO, there are several indicators that we look into. We must be able to reduce our active cases and also end the spread of the virus within the community.

"Our labs must have the capacity to handle daily testing of cases.

"Our hospitals also need to be at a capacity to handle patients, so that we can provide the best treatment.

"Currently, even patients who have mild symptoms are warded so we can monitor their progress.

"Those with serious conditions like pneumonia are given extra attention.

"At present, we have seen a reduction of cases in intensive care as well as patients requiring ventilators," said Dr Noor Hisham.

Currently, 51 patients are being treated at intensive care units (ICU), with 26 of them requiring the use of ventilators.

Dr Noor Hisham also announced that 201 more patients had been discharged.

So far, 2,967 patients have recovered from Covid-19 in Malaysia since the outbreak began.

The rate of recovery in Malaysia is 56.5% out of the total number of positive cases.

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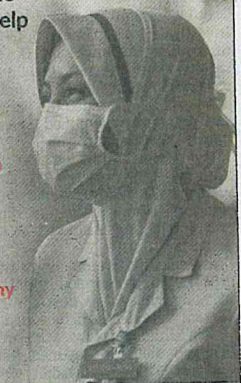
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Dr Noor Hisham also said that there were two more deaths, bringing the Covid-19 death toll in Malaysia to 86.

On another matter, he said the ministry's decision not to recommend the usage of disinfection tunnels was final.

The ministry had previously stated there was no evidence that disinfection tunnels or chambers are

effective in curbing the spread of the virus.

Dr Noor Hisham had also expressed concern that the chemicals used might be harmful to humans.

Watch the video thestartv.com



601 foreigners tested positive, says Health DG

PUTRAJAYA: A total of 601 foreigners have tested positive for Covid-19, says Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

"Of this, 356 are being treated, 242 have recovered, while there were three deaths," he said yesterday.

He said they comprised mainly of Indonesians, Filipinos, Bangladeshis,

Indians and Pakistanis, all of whom were either migrant workers, tourists, asylum seekers or refugees.

He said the authorities took note of the recent situation in Singapore, where a spike in Covid-19 cases was due to spread of the virus at workers' dormitories.

"We must heed this situation in

view that Malaysia also has a lot of foreign workers.

"Steps must be taken to prevent the spread of the virus among foreigners," he said.

He also noted that more than half of total infections in Singapore was due to the recent spike among foreign workers.

Dr Noor Hisham said industries that rely on foreign workers were responsible to ensure that all health and safety measures were implemented at the workplace.

He said the ministry was also working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to ensure that refugees

and asylum seekers were covered under the government's Covid-19 control and preventive activities.

On Malaysians returning from abroad, Dr Noor Hisham said only 10 tested positive, out of the 15,000 placed under mandatory quarantine since returning to the country from April 3 onwards.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION

Infected medical staff in Sabah from two hospital clusters

KOTA KINABALU: Medical staff who tested positive for Covid-19 in Sabah are from two hospital clusters, according to the Sabah Health Department.

Health director Datuk Dr Christina Lim said the two clusters were at the Women and Children's Hospital (WCH) in Likas and Keningau. She said 11 medical staff members

with the virus, eight were based in HWKK and the rest with the Keningau facility.

"They were most likely infected outside the hospital. Our initial investigations show that the person who first got the virus transmitted it to several other colleagues.

"There was no cross-transmission to patients because all our staff members are properly dressed in

personal protection equipment (PPE) before they begin duty," she said.

Dr Rundi said the cases in HWKK also contributed to the increase of numbers of Covid-19 cases in Kota Kinabalu.

Kota Kinabalu is now a red zone with a total of 42 cases recorded so far. The other red zone is Tawau district with 79 cases.

Dr Rundi said the people should not be unduly worried as hospital staff members were already instructed to be either quarantined, or for samples of their close contacts to be taken for testing.

She said Sabah recorded a total of 288 positive cases and four deaths as of Friday. A total of 23,480 samples out of the 279,826 screened have been tested.



'New norm' when schools reopen

Education Minister: Steps will be taken to ensure health, safety of students

By A RAJAENDRAM
www.thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Programmes involving large numbers of students assembled in one place will be avoided when schools reopen to avoid the Covid-19 pandemic, Education Minister Datuk Radzi Jidin said.

He said that events that should be halted are school assemblies with celebrations for Teachers Day or retirement

ceremonies who wanted to be held. He said any announcements can be made through public announcements.

He said that regular activities like cross-country races should be avoided as it would increase the spread of the virus, she continued.

On Wednesday, Education Minister Dr Mohd Radzi Md Jidin said measures will be put in place once schools reopen to ensure health and safety.

The "School Management Post-MCO" guide must be strictly followed by all schools, teachers and parents, he said.

He added the guidelines, which have yet to be finalised, will include social distancing, to ensure everyone remains at a safe one-meter distance from each other.

For example, Radzi said in order to maintain social distancing in a class of 35 students, the class will either be moved to an empty hall or be split in two.

However, the ministry is still studying the methods to use as there needs to be enough teachers if the number of classes are doubled or even tripled.

He said that this is one reason the ministry has chosen to start with only allowing the Form Five and Upper Six students to return to school.

Prema, who teaches in a Form Six College, said their classes are relatively small.

"Around 25 to 30 students. So it shouldn't be a problem to fit all of them inside one classroom," she continued.

She suggested that resource centres and science laboratories be utilised as classroom space as well.

Another teacher, Jamilah, said that maintaining social distancing should not be a problem as only Form Five and Upper Six students will return to school first.

She agreed with Dr Mohd Radzi's suggestion that classes could be split in two until it was safe.

She added that manpower should

not be a problem as there are enough teachers available since only two forms will be attending school.

Saranya, who teaches in Kuala Lumpur, said it would be better to keep students together and not split the class into two.

This is to make it easier for teachers to teach, she said, adding that there is already a shortage of teachers for certain subjects.

Educationist Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam said it is going to be very difficult to maintain social distancing once schools reopen and the guidelines are issued.

He said the minister's suggestion to split classes into smaller segments will be problematic as not all schools will have enough rooms to accommodate the students.

Siva said that if these students go back to school, they should wear gloves and masks at all times.

National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) secretary-general Harry Tan said teachers are currently not trained on how to ensure social distancing in a normal classroom setting.

The "new norm" will pose great challenges to teachers and students.

"Detailed guidelines have to be given to teachers on how to conduct lessons in the new norm," he added.

Tan said that the ministry should engage with NUTP to discuss the best ways to deal with this situation.

Parent Action Group for Education Malaysia chairman Datin Noor Azimah Abdul Rahim said the guidelines must contain the most effective ways to maintain hygiene and crowd control to ensure there will not be any spread of infection.

She added that the guidelines must be made public by the Education Ministry.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : NATION

Comment by WONG CHUN WAI

HEALTH director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah gets uncomfortable every time the media attempts to extract more about his life.

He has shied away from the praise heaped on him and his team, dismissing the national heroes title, insisting that it's their service to the ministry which is significant.

However, Dr Noor Hisham hasn't just become a national figure, he has also gained international attention now.

Every afternoon, at 5pm, Malaysians will be glued to their television sets to have this lanky doctor update them on the Covid-19 situation.

He gives straightforward answers, and that has been reassuring to most Malaysians since the movement control order (MCO) began a month ago.

Sure, sometimes he slips into medical terminology, which can leave us perplexed, but usually, his explanations are clear.

Dr Noor Hisham's command of Bahasa Malaysia and English is impeccable, and as Malaysians, we feel proud when our leaders are able to speak this way.

Chronicling his early life in a social media post, presumably by a former Methodist Boys' School (MBS) schoolmate, Dr Noor Hisham clearly learnt well in school.

"All his participation and activities in school had helped him to be independent, self-sufficient, resourceful, mature in engagement with others and to have good communication skills," read the post.

The perception outside Malaysia is that we have done well in combating the killer disease.

Every evening, editors of the Asia News Network from 23 countries share updates on the virus, and many of them have expressed their admiration for how Malaysia has

Dr Noor Hisham – the man of the hour

The Health DG is recognised as one of three leading doctors in the fight to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus and it's not surprising to see why.

tackled the situation.

In Indonesia, social media is ablaze with heated discussions and comparisons made to Malaysia's management of the crisis.

While the curve has yet to flatten, recovery numbers have gone up and the number of new cases has stabilised, although we're still not out of the woods.

Last week, the China Global TV Network (CGTN), which broadcasts to the world in Chinese and English, cited Dr Noor Hisham as among the "top doctors" in the world for his approach in handling the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the report from CGTN, Dr Noor Hisham is recognised as one of three leading doctors in the fight to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus, along with the US' infectious disease expert, Dr Anthony Fauci, and New Zealand's director-general of health Ashley Bloomfield.

The three have been lauded over the weeks for being "calm, clear and trustable" sources of information and facts for their countrymen during the pandemic.

Dr Noor Hisham, who turns 57 in three days' time, has been the Health director-general since 2013. He has been dubbed a "trusted face" by Malaysians, thanks to his



An honour: CGTN cited Dr Noor Hisham as among the 'top doctors' in the world for his approach in handling the Covid-19 pandemic.

reliance on facts and figures in making decisions to update the public on the virus via his social media platforms.

CGTN said his "low-key image and unassuming air" contributed to Dr Noor Hisham's appeal, while Bloomfield described him as the quintessential civil servant.

This writer sent Dr Noor Hisham a text message to congratulate him on the recognition accorded to him. He must have received a string of similar messages of commendation.

But he replied swiftly, even though it was dinner time, and

He went on to specialise in endocrine surgery and did his training in various universities in Adelaide and Sydney, Australia. His articles have been published in many local and international journals and he has written textbook chapters on endocrine surgery.

That is the factual sheet of his professional resume. Beyond that, he has, prudently, not divulged details of his private life, which have been widely circulated in social media.

When Dr Noor Hisham was asked about the recognition given by CGTN, his answer was that it was an honour for Malaysia and thanked all the government agencies.

Always shunning the limelight, the former Boy Scout and school champion athlete remains a team player. Although he was born in Sepang, he studied and grew up in KL.

No stranger to challenges and difficulties, it's fair to say Dr Noor Hisham hasn't taken a day off since the outbreak of the virus, with back-to-back meetings and sometimes, hand-over functions that require his attendance.

He has been updating the media and public on social media late into the night, well past normal working hours.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin deserves credit for steadfastly making the right calls, especially when a few ministers have faltered in making rightful, health-driven decisions.

Whether it's barber shops, hair salons or Ramadan bazaars, he has put his foot down firmly on such luxuries at this time. Let's give credit where it's due, without the political bias to score points.

But as UKM pays tribute to our alumnus and the achievements of the university, I must take this occasion to single out Dr Noor Hisham in the roll call for our Golden Jubilee milestone.