

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

148 kaunselor di klinik kesihatan seluruh negara atasi trauma

Kota Tinggi: Seramai 148 kaunselor kini ditugaskan di klinik kesihatan seluruh negara, bagi menangani masalah trauma terhadap pandemik COVID-19.

Menyatakan itu, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Sri Dr Adham Baba, berkata kebimbangan psikososial akibat COVID-19, bukan sahaja di negara ini, tetapi membabitkan negara lain yang terjejas akibat pandemik itu.

Katanya, individu termasuk pelajar yang mengalami trauma akibat COVID-19 atau tahap keyakinan yang rendah terhadap normal baharu boleh mendapatkan rawatan dengan segera.

"Setakat ini tiada laporan berhubung kebimbangan psikososial, tetapi KKM sudah bersedia daripada segala sudut, termasuk penyediaan kaunselor bagi menangani kes ini, sekiranya ada."

"Oleh sebab itu, bagi melincinkan proses pembelajaran, kita mahu dalam pemikiran anak di sekolah yakin kerana mereka adalah antara golongan yang sentiasa dijaga," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang media selepas majlis pernyerahan pelitup muka dan sabun kepada 56 sekolah dalam kawasan Parlimen Tenggara di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tun Habab di sini, semalam.

Dr Adham berkata, KKM menggariskan Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) bagi pelajar dan pihak sekolah agar tiada kewujudan kluster sekolah apabila dibuka sepenuhnya nanti.

Katanya, antara kandungan garis panduan itu ialah saringan susu badan, penjaraikan sosial dalam kelas serta kantin dan tidak mengadakan perhimpunan.

"Kita mahu mereka patuh dan yakin dengan SOP ini, malah sehingga kini penularan wabak COVID-19 dapat ditangani hasil kerjasama rakyat dan pemimpin."

"Sehingga kini keadaan bertambah baik dengan pembukaan pelbagai sektor ekonomi dan sektor pendidikan. Pematuhan rakyat terhadap SOP sangat penting dalam hal ini," katanya.



Individu mengalami trauma akibat COVID-19 disarankan mendapatkan rawatan dan nasihat kaunselor di klinik kesihatan seluruh negara.

(Foto hiasan)



Dr Adham (tiga dari kiri) pada program ramah mesra bersama pengetua, guru besar dan PIBG di SMK Tun Habab, Kota Tinggi, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

Tiada diskriminasi tangani pandemik

Laporan Al Jazeera Malaysia amal perkauman terhadap PATI tak benar

Oleh Omar Ahmad
bhnews@bh.com.my

Kota Tinggi: Kerajaan manfaatkan laporan stesen televisyen, Al Jazeera, yang mendakwa Malaysia melakukan diskriminasi terhadap pendatang tanpa izin (PATI) ketika menguakuwasakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) bagi menangani pandemik COVID-19.

Menyatakan itu, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Sri Dr Adham Baba, menegaskan laporan stesen televisyen terbabit adalah tersasar daripada usaha kerajaan yang mengambil pelbagai langkah dalam mengekang penularan COVID-19.

Tegasnya, saringan yang dijalankan adalah antara tindakan mengawal penularan jangkitan wabak itu.

"Tidak berlaku isu perkauman, laporan berita Al Jazeera itu tidak benar sama sekali.

"Menyelamatkan warga negara atau bukan warga negara adalah satu daripada tindakan mengikut Akta 342 iaitu menangani wabak COVID-19."

"Apa yang kita buat ketika Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) ialah memastikan mereka yang dikesan positif CO-

VID-19, diasingkan untuk rawatan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang media selepas majlis pernyerahan pelitup mulut dan sabun antiseptik di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tun Habab, di sini, semalam.

Dr Adham berkata, isu berkenaan perlu diperbetulkan ke-

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Dr Adham Baba,
Menteri Kesihatan

rana membabitkan imej negara.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas laporan dokumentari oleh Al Jazeera, bertajuk *Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown* yang antara lain mendakwa berlaku isu perkauman dalam mengendalikan COVID-19.

Ditanya sama ada tindakan akan diambil terhadap stesen televisyen itu, Dr Adham berkata, kerajaan akan memperbetulkan persepsi berkenaan melalui Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

"Kita perlu perbetulkan melalui jurucakap kerajaan (Ismail Sabri) yang mengetahui mesyuarat menteri mengenai COVID-19," katanya.

Diminta mengulas laporan forensik mengenai kebakaran di Wad Perubatan Perempuan 1 Hospital Sultanah Aminah (HSA) pada 28 Jun lalu, Dr Adham berkata, pihaknya masih menunggu laporan berhubung perkara berkenaan daripada Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat negeri.

Bagaimanapun, ketika lawatan ke hospital itu minggu lalu, beliau dimaklumkan kebakaran berpunca daripada masalah pendawaian di sebuah panel wad berkenaan.

"Kita akan dapatkan laporan dalam masa terdekat. Ia perlukan masa kerana laporan forensik lebih tepat," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Pemulihian COVID-19

Kluster Pangsapuri Cheras, Gombak tamat

Lima kes baharu babitkan dua penularan jangkitan tempatan

Oleh Rafidah Mat Ruzki dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
bhnews@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Dua lagi kluster COVID-19 berkaitan tempat kediahan diisytiharkan tamat, iaitu Kluster Gombak dan Kluster Pangsapuri Cheras.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata penularan COVID-19 di Kluster Gombak mula dikesan 18 Mei lalu hasil aktiviti pengesanan kes secara aktif bagi kes positif wabak itu di sebuah kuarters kediaman di Gombak.

Dalam satu kenyataan semalam, beliau memaklumkan, sehingga 4 Julai, 200 individu disaring bagi kluster itu dan lima dilaporkan positif COVID-19 membabitkan warganegara Malaysia.

* Kluster Pangsapuri Cheras pun dikesan pada 1 Jun dan 144 individu sudah disaring sebelum lapan kes dikesan positif. Kluster ini membabitkan seorang warganegara Indonesia dan selebihnya ialah penduduk tempatan.

"Kes pertama bagi kedua-dua kluster ini dikesan hasil saringan pelajar pusat tahfiz dan maahad, iaitu salah satu kumpulan sasar dikenal pasti berisiko tinggi. Ini pendedahan tertumpu yang sudah membantu mengesan banyak kes COVID-19," katanya.

babitkan segala aktiviti pengesanan kes dan langkah pembendungan penularan jangkitan berkaitan kluster ini," katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, daripada lima kes baharu positif COVID-19 dilaporkan semalam, tiga adalah kes import membabitkan dua warganegara Malaysia dan seorang pemastautin tetap, manakala dua kes selebihnya adalah penularan tempatan.

"Kes penularan tempatan membabitkan warganegara Malaysia,

iaitu masing-masing satu kes di-kesan ketika saringan prapembendahan di Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Sabah dan satu lagi di sebuah pusat perubatan di Seremban, Negeri Sembilan," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, dengan pertambahan kes baharu itu, ia menjadikan jumlah kumulatif COVID-19 di negara ini 8,663 kes dan jumlah aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan adalah 77 kes.

"Sehingga jam 12 tengah hari ini (semalam), empat kes sudah

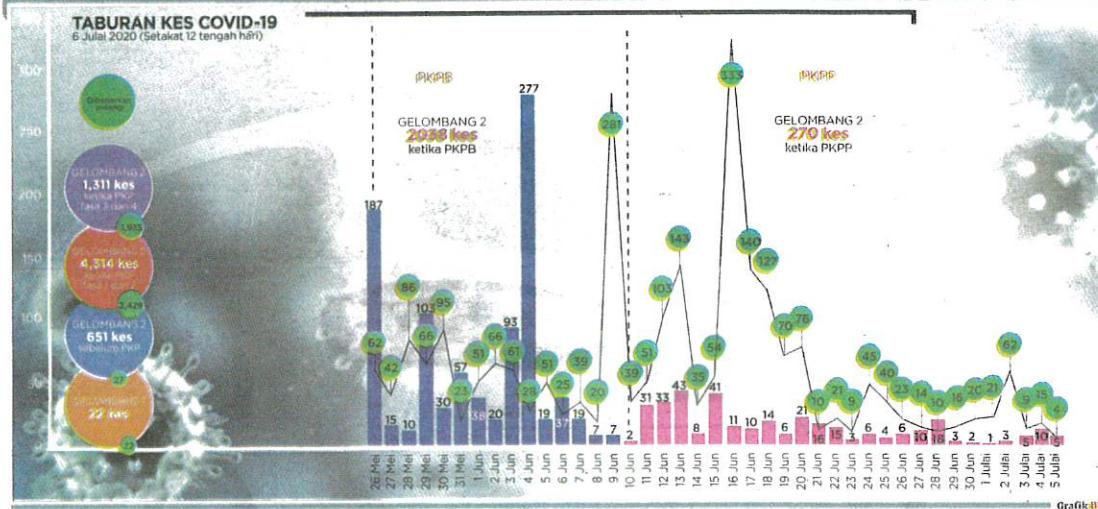


Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

pulih, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih 8,465 atau 97.7 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes.

"Dua kes positif dirawat di unit rawatan rapi dan memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Beliau turut memaklumkan, tiada pertambahan kes kematian berkaitan COVID-19 dan jumlahnya kekal 121 kes bersamaan 1.39 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.



AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 18

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Sangkal laporan Al Jazeera

Kota Tinggi: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menafikan dakwaan laporan dokumentari saluran berita Al Jazeera yang menyatakan kononnya wujud isu perkauman terhadap warga asing ketika negara mengendalikan pandemik Covid-19.

Menterinya Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, laporan itu tidak benar kerana kerajaan sedaya upaya menyelamatkan negara daripada penularan wabak terbabit.

Katanya, langkah saringan yang dijalankan adalah satu tindakan bagi mengawal penularan wabak itu daripada menjangkiti orang lain.

"Perlu nafikan tidak ada isu perkauman, laporan berita Al Jazeera itu tidak benar dan perlu disangkal."

"Menyelamatkan warganegara atau bukan warganegara adalah satu daripada tindakan di bawah Akta 342 iaitu menangani wabak Covid-19.

**Laporan berita
Al Jazeera itu
tidak benar**
Dr Adham Baba



DR Adham menyerahkan kit keselamatan Covid-19 kepada Yang Dipertua PIBG SMK Tun Habib, Noriasah Sadek.

"Apa yang kami buat dalam Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Ber-syarat (PKPB) ialah perlu pastikan semua yang dikesan (Covid-19) dapat disaring dan diasingkan," katanya pada sidang media selepas majlis penyerahan pelitup mu-

lut serta sabun antiseptik di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tun Habib di sini, semalam.

Menurutnya, isu itu perlu diperbetulkan kerana membabitkan imej negara.

Dokumentari Al Jazeera yang bertajuk *Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown* itu mendakwa terdapat isu perkauman di negara ini ketika mengendalikan wabak Covid-19.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 18

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Tiada isu diskriminasi terhadap PATI

Kerajaan sangkal laporan al-Jazeera yang dakwa Malaysia lakukan diskriminasi

KOTA TINGGI

Kerajaan menyangkal laporan sebuah agensi berita asing yang mendakwa Malaysia melakukan diskriminasi terhadap pendatang asing tanpa izin (PATI) ketika negara menguatkuasakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) bagi menangani pandemik Covid-19.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, dakwaan itu tidak berasas kerana Malaysia memperkenalkan PKP untuk menyelamatkan orang ramai daripada Covid-19 tanpa mengira war-

ganegara atau bukan warganegara.

"Laporan al-Jazeera yang menyebut berlaku diskriminasi adalah satu tuduhan yang tidak betul. Menyelamatkan warganegara atau bukan warganegara merupakan satu tindakan di bawah Akta 342 (Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988) bagi menangani wabak Covid-19."

"Jadi, kita perlu pastikan semua yang dikesan dapat disaring dan diasingkan," katanya selepas majlis penyerahan pelitup separuh muka dan sabun antiseptik di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Tun Habab di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas laporan dokumentari al-Jazeera bertajuk *Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown* berdurasi 20.25 minit yang mendakwa berlaku diskriminasi terhadap



FOTO: BERNAMA

Dr Adham menyerahtarkan kit keselamatan Covid-19 kepada Yang Dipertua PIBG SMK Tun Habab, Noriasah Sadek di Kota Tinggi semalam.

pendatang tanpa izin dari segi layanan terhadap mereka ketika Malaysia mengendalikan langkah menangani Covid-19.

Ketika ditanya sama ada tindakan akan diambil terhadap agensi berita itu, Dr Adham berkata, kerajaan akan memperbetulkan persepsi tersebut melalui Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob,

"Kita perlu perbetulkan melalui Datuk Seri Ismail

Sabri sebagai jurucakap kerajaan yang mengetuai mesyuarat menteri-menteri mengenai Covid-19," katanya.

Diminta mengulas laporan forensik mengenai kebakan di Wad Perubatan Perempuan 1, Hospital Sultanah Aminah (HSA) pada 28 Jun lepas, Dr Adham berkata, pihaknya masih menunggu laporan berhubung perkara itu.

- Bernama

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 19
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Bayi tiga bulan antara empat dijangkiti polio

KOTA TINGGI - Bayi berusia tiga bulan adalah antara empat orang dikesan dijangkiti virus polio di Sabah dan Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan minggu lepas.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, tiga lagi yang dikesan itu melibatkan kanak-kanak berusia tiga tahun, lapan dan 11 tahun.

Beliau berkata, tiga daripadanya merupakan warga asing dan seorang warga tempatan.

"Kami kesan pada minggu lepas. Saya ingin nasihatkan ibu bapa untuk beri vaksinasi polio bagi anak-anak berumur dua, tiga, lima dan 18 bulan supaya program membasmi polio ini berkesan," katanya di sini semalam.

Dr Adham berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) sedang membuat tindakan awal bagi mengesan kes polio di seluruh negara.

Beliau dalam masa sama menjelaskan vaksin bagi mencegah virus polio diberikan percuma oleh kerajaan.

Sementara itu, Dr Adham ketika diminta

mengulas mengenai sejauh mana pihak KKM menyediakan khidmat kaunseling sekiranya terdapat individu terutama pelajar yang mengalami ketakutan psikososial berikutan pandemik Covid-19, beliau berkata, seramai 148 kaunselor ditempatkan di klinik kesihatan seluruh negara dan mereka boleh dirujuk bagi tujuan tersebut.

Menurut beliau, ketakutan psikososial terhadap Covid-19 bukan sahaja berlaku di negara ini malah melibatkan negara lain yang terjejas akibat pandemik itu.

"Kami sentiasa bersiap sedia sekiranya ada kes-kes seperti ini ditemui untuk diatasi dengan cepat.

"Oleh sebab itu, bagi melicinkan kaedah pembelajaran efektif, kita mahu dalam pemikiran anak-anak di sekolah bahawa mereka perlu yakin kerana mereka adalah antara golongan yang sentiasa dijaga," katanya.

Beliau berkata, KKM menetapkan prosedur operasi standard untuk para pelajar dan pihak sekolah patuhi bagi mengekang penularan Covid-19. - Bernama

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 20

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Kes baharu kembali catat satu digit

Malaysia catat lima kes baharu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes positif ialah 8,663 kes

PUTRAJAYA

Bilangan kes positif baharu wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) kembali kepada satu digit semalam selepas lima kes dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah kumulatif meningkat kepada 8,663 orang.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada jumlah itu, tiga melibatkan kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di luar negara dan dua lagi membabitkan penularan tempatan.

"Kedua-dua kes penularan di dalam negara adalah dalam kalangan warganegara Malaysia

iaitu kes-kes saringan pra pembedahan di Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Sabah dan di sebuah pusat perubatan di Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

"Tiada penularan dalam negara dalam kalangan bukan warganegara dilaporkan pada hari ini (semalam)," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan terdapat empat kes yang telah pulih dan dibenarkan discaj menjadikan kumulatif kes yang telah pulih sepenuhnya daripada Covid-19 dan telah discaj daripada wad adalah sebanyak 8,465 kes.

"Jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan Covid-19 pula adalah sebanyak 77 kes."

"Angka kematian akibat Covid-19 kekal 121 orang apabila tiada kematian baru dilaporkan hari ini (semalam)," kata-

Sementara itu, Dr Noor His-



DR NOOR HISHAM

Jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan Covid-19 pula adalah sebanyak 77 kes."

la Lumpur.

"Kluster Gombak telah dilaporkan pada 18 Mei 2020 hasil daripada aktiviti pengesaman kes secara aktif kes positif Covid-19 di sebuah kuarters kediamaan di Gombak.

"Sehingga 4 Julai 2020, seramai 200 orang telah disaring dan didapati lima kes yang positif Covid-19. Kluster ini melibatkan semua warganegara Malaysia," katanya.

Menurutnya, Kluster Pangsapuri Cheras telah dilaporkan pada 1 Jun 2020 hasil daripada aktiviti pengesaman secara kes aktif kes positif Covid-19 di

sebuah pangaspuri di Cheras.

"Sehingga 4 Julai 2020, seramai 144 orang telah disaring dan didapati lapan kes yang positif Covid-19.

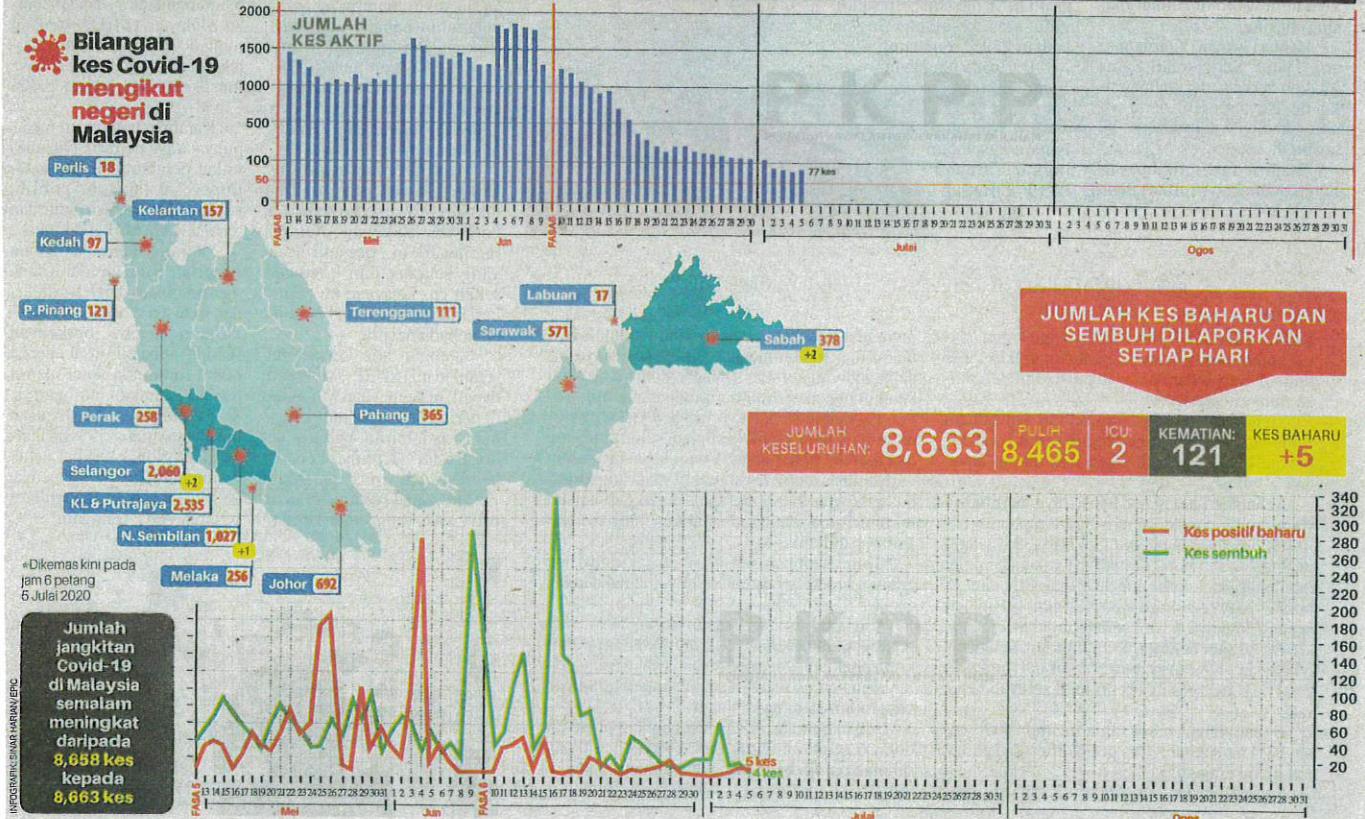
"Kluster ini melibatkan satu kes positif warga Indonesia iaitu daripada tiga bukan warganegara yang telah disaring dan selebihnya adalah warganegara Malaysia," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes pertama kedua-dua kluster itu telah dikesan hasil saringan pelajar pusat tafhib dan maahad yang merupakan salah sebuah kumpulan sasar yang dikenal pasti berisiko tinggi.

"Ini adalah pendekatan tertumpu yang setakat ini telah membantu mengesan banyak kes Covid-19.

"Sukacita dimaklumkan daripada siasatan yang telah dijalankan didapati tiada kes positif Covid-19 yang lain daripada kedua-dua pusat tafhib tersebut," kata beliau.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

SAVING EVERYONE

ADHAM: AL JAZEERA ALLEGATION BASELESS

Report on discrimination against illegal immigrants during MCO inaccurate

KOTA TINGGI

THE government yesterday refuted a report of an international television channel that alleges Malaysia discriminated against illegal immigrants when enforcing the Movement Control Order (MCO) in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the allegation was baseless as Malaysia introduced the MCO to save every-

body from Covid-19, regardless of his or her nationality.

"The Al Jazeera report, which mentioned occurrences of discrimination, was incorrect. The Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 was to combat Covid-19 for all."

"So we need to ensure all who are detected (tested positive for the virus) are screened and isolated," he said after an event to present face masks and antiseptic soaps at SMK Tun Habab here yesterday.

Dr Adham was referring to a 20-minute Al Jazeera documentary titled *Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown*, which claimed the government had been discriminating against illegal immigrants during its fight against the pandemic.

On possible actions to be taken against the television station, he said the government would cor-

rect the public's perception through Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

"We need to correct it through Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri, who is the government's spokesman heading the ministerial meeting on Covid-19," Dr Adham added.

He said a 3-month-old baby and three other children, aged 3, 8 and 11, were diagnosed with polio in Sabah and Labuan last week.

Of the four children, one of them was a local.

"I advise parents to take their children for polio vaccination," he said, adding that the vaccines were provided free by the government.

According to the Malaysian National Immunisation Schedule, infants are to receive the inactivated polio vaccine at 2 months,

3 months and 5 months.

A booster shot needs to be administered when the child reaches 18 months old to ensure that he is fully protected from the virus.

He said the public, especially students, could access the 148 counsellors at health clinics nationwide to deal with the psychosocial impact brought by the pandemic.

On the fire at Sultanah Aminah Hospital's Women's Ward 1 on June 28, he said the ministry was waiting for a report from the state Fire and Rescue Department.

During his visit to the hospital last week, he said he had been informed that the fire could be due to a wiring problem at one of the panels in the ward.

"We'll receive the report soon.

"It needs time as the forensic report is more accurate." Bernama

77 ACTIVE CASES

5 new Covid-19 cases, says Health D-G

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia registered five new Covid-19 cases yesterday, compared with 10 cases on Saturday, which bring the total number of infections in the country to 8,663.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the five cases included three imported cases, which involved two Malaysians and a permanent resident.

"The remaining two locally-transmitted cases, involving Malaysians, were detected during pre-surgery screenings at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Sabah and a medical centre in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

"No locally-transmitted cases involving non-Malaysians were reported today (yesterday)."

He said the number of active cases stood at 77.

Dr Noor Hisham said four more patients had recovered from the disease and were discharged from hospitals yesterday, bringing the number of recoveries to 8,465, or 97.7 per cent of the cumulative cases.

"Two patients are being treated in the Intensive Care Unit and are on ventilator support.

"No fatalities were reported today (yesterday), keeping the death toll at 121 (or 1.39 per cent of the total number of cases)."

He said two residential clusters — Gombak and the Cheras flats — were closed down.

"The Gombak cluster was detected on May 18, following an active case detection held in a residential area there."

"A total of 200 people were screened up to July 4, with five cases detected," he said, adding that the cluster involved only Malaysians.

As for the Cheras apartment cluster, he said it was detected on June 1.

"Up to July 4, 144 people were screened, with eight testing positive for Covid-19."

"This cluster involved seven Malaysians and one non-Malaysian (Indonesian)."

He added that the first positive cases from both clusters were detected following the screenings of tahfiz students, which face a high risk of being infected with the virus.

He said the targeted approach had helped in detecting Covid-19 cases.



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation globally (As of 7pm July 5, 2020)

Asean+	Malaysia										New cases 5	Total cases 8,663	Total deaths 121	Total recovered 8,465
	China	Indonesia	Singapore	Philippines	Japan	S. Korea	Thailand	Vietnam	Myanmar	Brunei				
Confirmed cases	83,553	62,749	44,800	41,830	19,282	13,091	3,190	355	313	141	141	19	0	0
Deaths	4,634	3,171	26	1,290	977	283	58	0	6	3	0	0	0	0
Recovered	78,516	29,105	40,117	11,453	16,959	11,832	3,071	340	240	138	131	19	131	19
Global Top 10	US	Brazil	Russia	India	Peru	Spain	Chile	UK	Mexico	Italy				
Confirmed cases	2,936,122	1,578,376	681,251	675,453	299,080	297,625	291,847	284,900	252,165	241,419				
Deaths	132,318	64,365	10,161	19,289	10,421	28,385	6,192	44,198	30,366	34,854				
Recovered	1,260,619	978,615	450,750	409,083	189,621	N/A	287,445	N/A	152,309	191,944				

Peace of mind at Sunday Mass

Churchgoers feel blessed to attend service after months away

By RENA LIM
rena@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: It was an emotional day for most of the 275 parishioners who attended Sunday Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Pulau Tikus here for the first time after more than 90 days since the movement control order (MCO) was imposed in March.

Student Larissa Ann, 19, said she was emotional and felt blessed to be among those allowed to attend.



"I know that many of us wanted to come for this Mass but as only 275 people were allowed to be here, we had to register beforehand and take turns."

"I registered earlier and felt real-

ly lucky and thankful to be able to attend Mass after a lapse of more than 90 days."

"It was a relief to see everyone here, all well and eager. It brings back energy and some hope."

"After this, I will be following the Mass at home through live streaming as we need to take turns," she said yesterday.

Another parishioner who only wanted to be known as Guat Sim, 68, said she too was emotional and felt grateful to be back for her first Mass in months.

"It is just not the same attending Mass through livestreaming. Although it was tough during the MCO, I am sure it has helped many of us see life for the better."

"I myself have discovered many things and I hope life will only get better for all of us from now on," said the homemaker.

Church pastoral council chair-

man David Sivapatham said the church was happy to open up.

"Even under strict conditions, we are doing everything in full compli-

ance to ensure that parishioners can come for Mass with peace of mind.

"In the past, we used to have three masses on weekends and the church was able to accommodate over 1,000 people."

"Now we can only conduct one Mass every Sunday with only 275 parishioners present."

"Parishioners are all taking turns to attend the Mass and only those between the ages of 13 and 69 are allowed to attend," he said, adding that those at home could follow the Mass on livestream.



Space to pray:
Parishioners attending Mass while observing social distancing rules in Petaling Jaya.

Parishioners closer to God at a safe distance

By ALLISON LAI
allison@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Churchgoers are adhering well to new norms as more churches opened for Sunday Mass and services following preparations made to maintain social distancing rules and crowd control.

Council of Churches of Malaysia (CCM) general secretary Rev Dr Hermen Shastri said that despite the many conditions and standard operating procedure (SOP) to follow, the people had been understanding.

"Empty spaces were seen everywhere. It was a little strange to be in the church with distanced sitting," he said in an interview yesterday.

He said there was also no gathering for fellowship with others after the worship service.

Rev Hermen noted that worship time was also controlled, which meant that it could not be more

than one-and-a-half hour.

To ensure public safety and hygiene, they were not allowed to linger and the premises thoroughly sanitised.

"All worship services were also streamed online, he added.

On June 15, Senior Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said all 5,230 non-Muslim places of worship could begin to operate but only at one-third of their usual capacity.

Attendees must download the MySejahtera application.

He said worshippers were also expected to adhere to social distancing rules and temperatures must be taken.

Many churches in the Klang Valley opened their doors yesterday since the movement control order (MCO) was implemented on March 18. A small number of these places resumed services for Sunday Mass last week.

A check at the Church of St

Francis Xavier on Jalan Gasing here saw the church mobilising more volunteers to help with the crowd, SOP adherence and traffic control.

Parish priest Father Norris Seenivasan said the manpower had doubled.

"We opened for our first Sunday

Mass last weekend and everything went smoothly," he said, adding that only 220 people out of its 5,000 parishioners were allowed at the premises.

He said that priority was given, among others, to those living within the church boundary and those

involved in the parish ministries.

"The rest of the 50% is open to the public who register online," he said.

Father Norris noted that church Mass is reduced to only one session on Sunday morning in July, with plans to gradually open up more while remaining cautious.

Malaysia refutes racism claim by news network

KOTA TINGGI: The government has slammed a report carried in Al Jazeera's 101 East, in which it accused Malaysia of racism in handling illegal immigrants during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the government imposed the movement control order (MCO) as a way to save the people, regardless of nationality.

"There is no racism and we have to deny this report because we are saving our country and people from an ongoing pandemic."

"The report said what we have conducted is an act of racism against illegal foreign workers, which is absurd," said Dr Adham, who is also the Tenggara MP, at a meeting with headmasters and principals in his constituency and at SMK Tun Habab here yesterday.

He said it was through the MCO that the authorities were able to conduct proper screening and isolate foreigners who showed symptoms of Covid-19 so that they could then get treatment from the ministry.

When asked whether the government would take action against the report, Dr Adham said the government would rectify the matter through Senior Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Titled "Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown", the 101 East report was published last Friday and featured a 25-minute video where it accused the government of using public health and safety reasons to arrest illegal migrants.

The video also showed the Al Jazeera journalist blaming a barbed fence placed during the enhanced

MCO period in Selayang, Selangor, for standing in the way of him interviewing one of the illegal migrant workers.

Dr Adham also announced that four polio cases were detected in Labuan and Sabah last week, three of whom were foreigners' children, aged from three months to 11 years.

He added that the ministry had launched a nationwide polio screening programme.

"The ministry would like to urge parents to ensure their children are receiving the vaccine between the ages of 18 months and five years.

"The polio vaccination injections are free and I hope parents will support our polio immunisation campaign so that it will produce a positive outcome," he said.

On the fire which broke out at Johor's Sultanah Aminah Hospital

recently, Dr Adham said preliminary reports found faulty electric panels at the women's medical ward although the ministry had yet to receive the Fire and Rescue Department's full forensic report.

Meanwhile, five new Covid-19 cases were recorded in the country as at noon yesterday, bringing the cumulative figure to 8,663 cases.

Three of the new cases were imported.

In a statement, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the new cases brought the total number of active cases to 77.

He added that the three imported cases involved two Malaysians and one permanent resident.

Both the local transmissions involved Malaysians, detected during pre-screening for an operation.

One was at Kota Kinabalu's Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the other at a medical centre in Seremban.

Four Covid-19 patients were released from the hospital yesterday, bringing the total number of discharged cases to 8,465 (or 97.7% of total cases).

Two patients were in the intensive care unit (ICU) at present with both requiring assisted breathing.

No deaths were recorded yesterday, with the death toll remaining at 121 cases, he said.

Dr Noor Hisham also announced that two clusters – Gombak and Pangaspuri Cheras – had ended.

"We want to congratulate everyone who has given their service in activities related to the detection of cases and containing the spread of cases related to these clusters," he said.

AKHBAR : THE SUN**MUKA SURAT : 4****RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS**

Five new cases, no deaths

PETALING JAYA: Five new Covid-19 cases were reported in the country as of noon yesterday, bringing the total number to 8,663. There are 77 active cases.

"Of the five new cases, three were imported, involving two Malaysians and one foreigner, while the other two are local transmissions involving Malaysians," Health director-general Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said yesterday.

They had returned from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

The local cases were detected during screenings before their scheduled operations at Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Sabah, and a medical centre in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

He added four patients had recovered, bringing the total number of patients discharged thus far to 8,465, or 97.7% of the total cases.

Two patients are receiving treatment in the intensive care unit, with both of them requiring respiratory assistance.

No new deaths have been reported. The death toll stands at 121.

Noor Hisham said two more Covid-19 clusters had been contained after completing the 28-day monitoring period without reporting any new cases.

These were the Gombak and Cheras apartment clusters, which involved 13 cases in total. No deaths had been reported.

He said the first cases in both clusters were detected following screenings on a tahfiz school and madrasah students.

"The health ministry wishes to congratulate all who have provided their services in case detection measures and in curbing further infections for these clusters," he said.