

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Pemulihhan COVID-19

Pusat kuarantin berisiko rendah tamatkan operasi

Pesakit terakhir dibenarkan pulang semalam

Oleh Rafidah Mat Ruzki,
Mohd Iskandar Ibrahim
dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
bhnews@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) di Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia Serdang (MAEPS) menamatkan operasi selesa pesakit terakhir dibenarkan pulang semalam.

Penutupan pusat khusus bagi merawat pendarat asing tanpa izin (PATI) positif COVID-19 selepas 108 hari beroperasi itu, dikongsikan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, menerusi akaun Facebook rasminya selesa melawat pusat berkenaan.

"Pagi ini (semalam) saya ke Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah MAEPS sempena penamatan operasi hari ini (semalam).

"Hari ini (semalam) adalah detik bersejarah penutupan operasi pusat ini selesa pesakit terakhir discaj dan dibenarkan pulang," katanya.

Turut hadir Pengarah Bahagian Perkembangan Perubatan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), Datuk Dr Norhizan Ismail dan Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Selangor, Datuk Dr Sha'ari Ngadiman.

Pembinaan PKRC di MAEPS



Dr Adham bersama Pengarah Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan COVID-19 Berisiko Rendah MAEPS, Dr Md Anuar Abd Samad, menunjukkan pelekat tanda penutupan pusat rawatan itu semalam.

berkonsepkan hospital medan hanya mengambil masa tiga hari.

Kemudahan di pusat kuarantin dan rawatan berkenaan dilengkapi dua dewan dengan jumlah kapasiti sebanyak 604 katil, ruang istirahat, bilik persalinan, surau, televisyen, komputer berserta talian jalur lebar (WiFi) untuk keselesaan pesakit.

Bagi petugas kesihatan, pusat itu mempunyai ruang kerja khusus dan tempat istirahat, selain dilengkapi kawalan kamera litar tertutup (CCTV) dan berada di bawah kawalan keselamatan polis sepanjang masa.

Sumus anggota kesihatan dijerakkan dari Ibu Pejabat KKM, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri, hospital KKM, hospital angkatan tentera, hospital universiti awam dan anggota sukarelawan.

Pusat itu juga mempunyai pasukan Kesihatan Mental dan So-

kongan Psikososial (MHPSS) yang memberi perkhidmatan sokongan emosi, psikologi dan ke-roharian kepada pesakit dan petugas.

Ia menggunakan sistem Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindakan Cepat Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC) hospital bagi tujuan pengumpulan data untuk penyelaras dan pelaporan lebih tepat dan terkini.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata PKRC di MAEPS akan ditutup secara rasminya Rabu depan, selesa pesakit terakhir dibenarkan pulang semalam.

"Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba menyaksikan proses pesakit terakhir didiscay daripada PKRC di MAEPS hari ini (semalam).

"Pusat itu diilhamkan oleh Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin

Yassin sebagai antara langkah proaktif kerajaan dalam menangi pandemik COVID-19 di negara ini.

"Ia beroperasi secara rasmi pada 16 April lalu dan menerima pesakit pertama pada 21 April."

katanya pada sidang media di Putrajaya, semalam.

Beliau berkata, pesakit terakhir itu tidak bergejala dan dikesan selepas menjalani ujian saringan untuk kembali ke tempat kerja, dua minggu lalu.

Katanya, wanita berkenaan dimasukkan ke PKRC untuk pemantauan sepanjang tempoh berkenaan dan selesai tempoh perhatian untuk 14 hari sebelum dibenarkan pulang.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, PKRC berjaya merawat 1,362 pesakit yang kebanyakannya bukan warganegara iaitu 86 peratus manakala 14 peratus lagi adalah warganegara Malaysia.

Jumlah kes baharu kembali dua angka

Putrajaya: Jumlah kes baharu COVID-19 kembali kepada dua angka iaitu 13 kes dilaporkan semalam, membabitkan lapan kes import dan lima kes penularan tempatan bagi menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes baharu kepada 8,696 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata kes import membabitkan enam warganegara Malaysia dan dua pemastautin tetap.

"Daripada lima kes penularan dalam negara, tiga kes adalah dalam kalangan warganegara dan dua kes membabitkan warga asing.

"Perincian kes penularan tem-patan ialah dua kes dikesan di

Sarawak menerusi saringan dalam kalangan pesakit Jangkitan Pernafasan Akut Teruk (SARI) dan satu kes menerusi saringan sebelum masuk kerja.

"Bagi kes positif dalam kalangan warga asing, dua kes dikesan di Depol Tahanan Imigresen (DTI) Bukit Jalil, yang mana kedua-dua kes disaring semula sebelum proses penghantaran puiang ke negara asal.

"Sehingga kini, jumlah kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan COVID-19 adalah 64 kes dan dua kes sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dan memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya pada

sidang media di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, setakat jam 12 tengah semalam, sebanyak 12 kes pulih dilaporkan yang menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sebanyak 8,511 kes atau 97.9 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes.

Dr Noor Hisham turut memak-lumkan tiada pertambahan kes kematian dan jumlahnya kekal 121 kes.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, KKM akan menjalankan ujian pengesanan COVID-19 secara berterusan bagi mengesan kes baharu dalam kalangan komuniti.

Katanya, antara kaedah dilaku-kan pihaknya termasuk me-

lalui sistem surveyan klinikal seperti pengesanan kes dalam kalangan pesakit SARI.

"Sehingga hari ini (semalam), sebanyak 20,897 sampel sudah diambil dan daripada jumlah berkenaan, 79 kes dikesan positif COVID-19 dengan kadar positif adalih 0.38 peratus.

"Kadar positif ini kurang daripada satu peratus bermakna kebolehjangkitan adalah rendah di Malaysia. Walaupun rendah, sistem surveyan di Malaysia masih dapat mengesan kes ini kerana ia mempunyai kapasiti dan keupayaan pengesanan yang baik," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

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MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

SABTU 11 JULAI 2020 • SINAR HARIAN

Lima kes baharu penularan tempatan

Membabitkan tiga rakyat tempatan dan dua warga asing

Oleh TUAN BUHQAIRAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN

PUTRAJAYA

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mencatatkan lima kes koronavirus (Covid-19) membabitkan tiga rakyat tempatan dan dua warga asing selepas dua hari berturut-turut sifir penularan tempatan.

Selain itu, KKM juga mencatatkan lapan kes import melibatkan rakyat Malaysiä dan pemastautin tetap yang pulang dari luar negara.

Ketua Pengaruh Kesihatan, Datuk

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, pertambahan 13 kes semalam menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan sebanyak 8,696 kes.

"Sebanyak 64 kes sedang dirawat di hospital," katanya pada sidang akhbar perkembangan terkini Covid-19 di kementerian ini sini semalam.

Mengulas lanjut mengenai penularan tempatan, beliau berkata, dua kes dikesan terhadap kes Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) yang telah dimasukkan ke Hospital Umum Sarawak manakala satu kes lagi merupakan saringan sebelum memulakan tugas di Kuala Lumpur.

"Dua kes pula dikesan di Depoh Taman Imigresen Bukit Jalil membabitkan Orang Kena Tahanan dan bakal dihantar pulang ke negara masing-



DR NOOR HISHAM

masing," katanya.

Menurutnya, sehingga kini terdapat dua kes dirawat di unit rawatan rapi dan memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kes kematian berkaitan Covid-19 kekal 121 kes selepas tiada pertambahan selama 26 hari berturut-turut.

Sementara itu, terdapat 12 kes yang telah pulih dan dibenarkan discaj semalam.

"Jumlah kumulatif kes yang telah pulih sepenuhnya dan telah discaj daripada wad ialah 8,511 kes.

"Ia bersamaan dengan 97.9 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, KKM akan terus memantau penyakit Covid-19 walaupun kes semakin berkurang.

Pusat kuarantin MAEPS tamat operasi Rabu depan

PUTRAJAYA - Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah yang terletak di Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia (MAEPS), Serdang bakal menamatkan operasinya, Rabu depan.

Ketua Pengaruh Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ia berikutan pesakit koronavirus (Covid-19) terakhir di pusat berkenaan telah dibenar pulang semalam.

"Oleh itu, dengan rasminya pusat ini akan menamatkan operasinya pada 15 Julai depan," katanya.

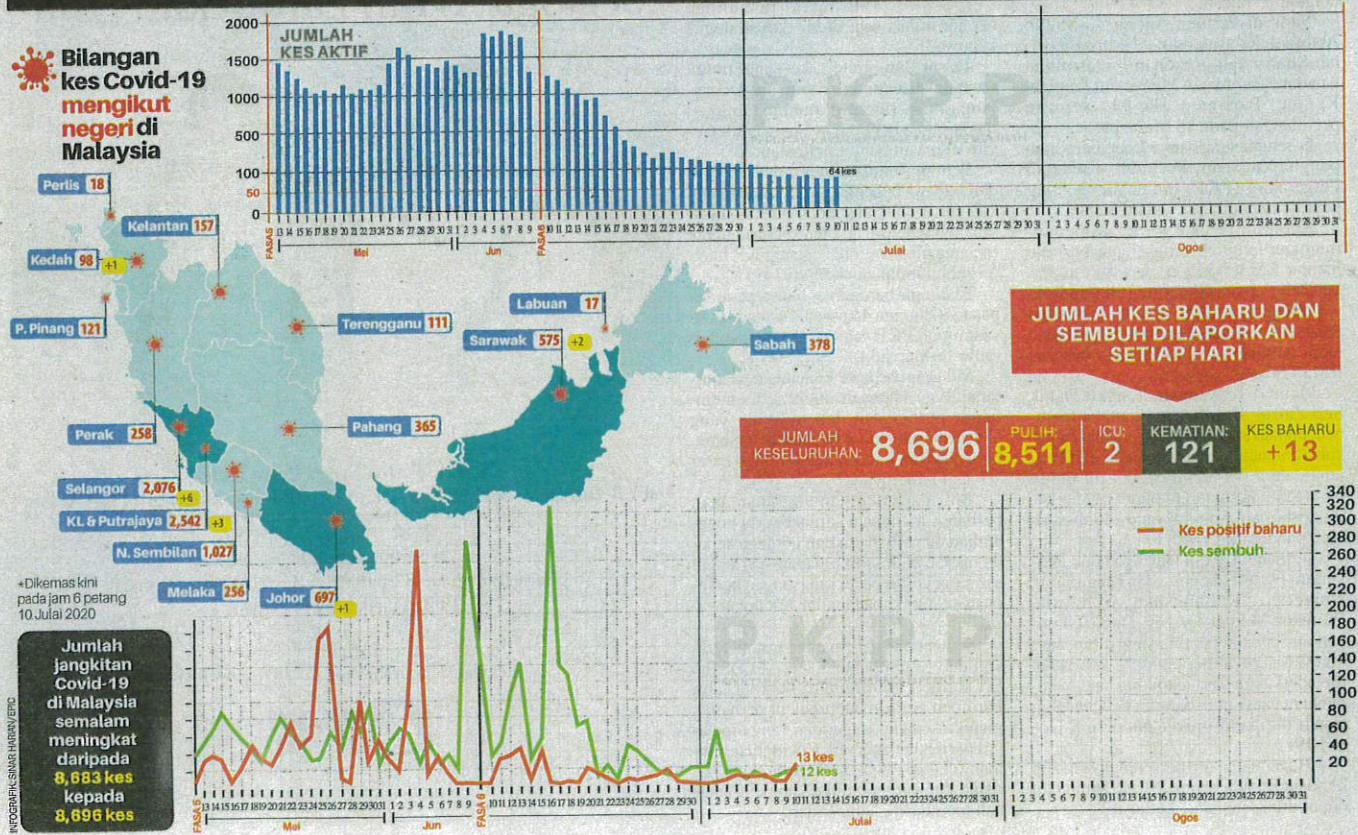
Menurutnya, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Adham Baba turut berpeluang melihat proses discaj pesakit terakhir di pusat tersebut.

"Pesakit berkenaan dikuarantin selama 14 hari selepas didapati positif Covid-19 ketika membuat saringan untuk kembali bekerja," katanya.

Beliau berkata, pusat kuarantin yang dilaharkan oleh Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin itu telah berjaya merawat seramai 1,362 orang pesakit sejak ia beroperasi 16 April lalu.

"Majoriti pesakit terdiri daripada 86 peratus warga asing dan 14 peratus warga tempatan," katanya.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN**MUKA SURAT : 13****RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19****KKM, arkitek tambah baik infrastruktur hospital**

KUALA LUMPUR - Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berharap arkitek dan perunding yang terlibat dalam pembinaan hospital akan terus bekerjasama dengan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dalam menambah baik perancangan dan reka bentuk infrastruktur pada masa hadapan.

Dr Noor Hisham turut mencadangkan lima matlamat reka bentuk kemudahan penjagaan kesihatan perlu diberi perhatian bagi membina infrastruktur kesihatan lebih baik.

"Reka bentuk utama yang pertama adalah menjadikan penjagaan tertumpu kepada pesakit dan keluarga sebagai sebahagian daripada proses rawatan kerana pesakit adalah sebab utama hospital dibina. Kedua, mengamalkan operasi yang cekap, keselamatan klinikal, hubungan yang berjalan dengan optimum, bernilai untuk wang dan kemudahan moden," katanya dalam hantaran Facebook beliau.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, reka bentuk ketiga ialah mempunyai fleksibiliti untuk pengem-

bangan dan teknologi baharu manakala keempat adalah reka bentuk yang lestari, mengurangkan penggunaan tenaga, penggunaan 24 jam yang intensif dan penghunian tinggi dan terakhir ialah persekitaran pemulihan perlu merangkumi seni dan hospitaliti.

Terdahulu, Dr Noor Hisham menyertai sesi webinar yang dihoskan Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) mengenai mereka bentuk pusat kuarantin ke arah persekitaran lebih baik.

- Bernama

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 15
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

SINAR HARIAN • SABTU 11 JULAI 2020

NASIONAL

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Berakhirnya kluster Covid-19 terbesar

Walaupun pada mulanya dicemuh, jemaah tabligh pada perhimpunan Sri Petaling menunjukkan sikap amanah yang luar biasa



Analisis BERITA

NURUL RIDUAN
NOR ASHAHA



Peserta perhimpunan Sri Petaling tampil sukarela membuat saringan Covid-19 seperti yang diarahkan oleh pihak berkuasa pada Mac lalu.

Pada tanggal 11 Mac lalu, negara digemparkan dengan dua kes positif virus pembunuh koronavirus (Covid-19) yang merupakan kes jangkitan ke-131 dan kes ke-136 dalam negara. Kedua-dua mereka merupakan warga tempatan bersal dari Pahang dan Negeri Sembilan. Hasil siasatan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mendedahkan bahawa dua individu itu merupakan peserta satu perhimpunan keagaman yang telah diadakan di sebuah masjid di Sri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur.



AHMAD LUFTI



SAZALY

Rentetan itu, perhimpunan tersebut terus diisytiharkan sebagai Kluster Perhimpunan Sri Petaling dengan 3,375 kes positif iaitu 38.9 peratus daripada jumlah kes positif Covid-19 di Malaysia setakat 8 Julai lalu.

Perhimpunan tersebut telah berlangsung dari 27 Februari sehingga 3 Mac dan dihadiri seramai 16,000 orang iaitu 14,500 warganegara Malaysia serta 1,500 bukan warganegara dari pelbagai negara lain.

Kluster Perhimpunan Sri Petaling dikatakan berpunca daripada individu dari luar negara dan kemudiannya menularkannya melalui aktiviti perhimpunan tersebut sebelum merebak ke seluruh negara.

Bagaimanapun selepas lebih empat bulan pasukan keselamatan negara berjaya dan Malaysia melalui pelbagai fasa Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) yang bermula 18 Mac lalu, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah akhirnya mengumumkan berita gembira buat semua.

"KKM dengan suka-citanya memaklumkan kluster Covid-19 terbesar di Malaysia, iaitu Kluster Perhimpunan Sri Petaling diisytiharkan tamat pada hari ini (8 Julai). Empat bulan telah berlalu

sejak kluster ini mula dikesan dan hari ini tamatlah tempoh 28 hari sejak kes terakhir kluster ini dilaporkan iaitu kes ke-8,367 pada 11 Jun yang lalu.

"Hari ini sememangnya merupakan hari yang amat bermakna bagi negara yang telah kita mengharunginya bersama," katanya.

Mengimbau kembali debit berkembaran KKM, Noor Hisham menjelaskan momen yang tidak dapat dilupakan adalah mesyuarat penting yang diadakan oleh Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim) untuk menjalin hubungan dengan para pemimpin jemaah tabligh Sri Petaling dalam usaha menutup rantaian penularan Covid-19.

"Ini adalah permulaan perjalanan yang panjang bagi memulihkan Malaysia. Hari ini masanya telah tiba dan ia mengambil tempoh empat bulan perjuangan, air mata dan keringat, serta pergerakan pantas mengesan dan menangkap kontak rapat sehingga berakhirnya kluster ini. Terima kasih kepada semua barisan hadapan atas pengorbanan anda," katanya.

Bersyukur

Seawal kluster itu dikesan, biarpun pahit untuk ditelan, ramai menzahirkan rasa marah terhadap perhimpunan itu namun sebalik cemuh yang diterima, jemaah tabligh mempamerkan sikap tanggungjawab.

Apakah ditunjukkan oleh peserta perhimpunan itu menjadi pengajaran berguna buat semua rakyat Malaysia untuk turut tampil amanah dan bertanggungjawab selaras dengan tuntutan agama Islam.

Miftahul Ulum Sri Petaling, Ahmad Lufti Muhamam yang bertindak sebagai Ketua Bahagian Pendataan Ijtima' ketika perhimpunan itu berlangsung berkata, apa yang berlaku merupakan satu ujian daripada ALLAH SWT dan memerlukan kesabaran yang sangat tinggi.

"Syukur ya ALLAH, berakhirnya

kluster Perhimpunan Sri Petaling. Pertama sekali pujian dipanjatkan kepada ALLAH SWT atas segala yang berlaku. Sebagai seorang beriman baik atau buruk semua ditadbir oleh ALLAH SWT.

"Secara umumnya kita bersyukur setelah lebih tiga bulan, Kluster Perhimpunan Sri Petaling tamat. Kegembiraan yang lebih utama adalah apabila orang Islam boleh kembali meneruskan amal ibadah dengan lebih sempurna. Madrasah dapat dibuka sekali gus pengajian tahfiz dan kitab dapat dibuat dengan lebih sempurna," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian* semalam.

Ahmad Lufti yang juga tenaga pengajar Fiqh dan Usul al-Fiqh di situ perkata, sebaik menerima arahan daripada pihak berkuasa, semua ahli jemaah yang hadir ke ijtima' disuruh untuk mematuhi arahan saringan Covid-19.

"Cabaran awal apabila pihak atas mengeluarkan data yang tidak tepat yang mengakibatkan suasana dan gambaran yang salah. Namun ia kembali pulih apabila semua pihak mendapat data sah daripada sumber sah oleh pasukan pendataan ijtima'.

"Oleh kerana pendataan peringkat negeri, kawasan, bahkan masjid sudah ada, maka kerja kami menjadi mudah ditambah dengan melantik wakil kawasan bagi memastikan rakan jemaah di kawasan mereka melaksanakan tanggungjawab masing-masing," katanya.

Biar pun kluster terbesar itu telah berakhir, namun ia bukanlah bermakna kita telah bebas sepenuhnya daripada ancaman maut virus itu kerana banyak kes positif yang tidak bergejala.

Data daripada KKM pada 8 Julai lalu juga mendapat sebanyak 6,092 daripada keseluruhan 8,674 kes positif, adalah kes tidak bergejala manakala 2,282 kes lagi mempunyai gejala.

Justeru pakar virologi, Prof Dr Sazaly Abu Bakar menegaskan Malaysia

KLUSTER PERHIMPUNAN SRI PETALING

- Jumlah hadir perhimpunan - 16,000 orang
- Jumlah keseluruhan kluster dan kontak yang disaring - 42,023 orang
- Jumlah positif Covid-19 bagi kluster Perhimpunan Sri Petaling - 3,375 orang
- Peratusan daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes positif di Malaysia - 38.9 peratus

Hari ini masanya telah tiba dan ia mengambil tempoh empat bulan perjuangan, air mata dan keringat, serta pergerakan pantas mengesan dan mengenalpasti kontak rapat sehingga berakhirnya kluster ini."

masih belum selamat selagi negara tidak merekodkan angka sifar jangkitan.

"Apa yang dilakukan oleh KKM adalah yang terbaik pada masa itu dalam usaha memutuskan rantaian Covid-19 daripada kluster Perhimpunan Sri Petaling. Cuma kalau kita lihat apa yang dilaporkan oleh Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, 70 peratus daripada jangkitan Covid-19 adalah tidak bergejala.

"Oleh itu kita tidak boleh leka dan terus berjaga-jaga. Nak buat kenduri, nak buka sekolah, kita kena ambil kira kebarangkalian itu. Kalau 1,500 orang, seorang kemungkinan positif, kemungkinan bakal berlakunya kluster baharu," katanya.

Sazaly juga menambah mungkin KKM boleh memperbaiki lagi pendekatan untuk menghapuskan rangaian sesuatu kluster dengan mempertingkatkan lagi jumlah saringan pada peringkat awal.

Mengambil contoh negara China, Sazaly menegaskan negara itu melakukan 300,000 saringan sehari bagi mencari pesakit yang ada kebolehjangkitan.

"Saya tidak nafikan mungkin ada kekangan sebab tak boleh buat dulu tetapi kita tengok bagaimana China menangani lonjakan kedua. Sama juga dengan Korea Selatan. Cara mereka menangani lonjakan kedua adalah dengan membuat saringan besar-besaran.

"Jika mereka pada peringkat awal telah menangani dengan membuat saringan lebih ramai, lebih tinggi, mungkin mereka boleh mengakhirinya dengan lebih cepat," katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

4

NEWS / Nation

COVID-19 UPDATE

13 NEW CASES RECORDED YESTERDAY

8 were imported, comprising six Malaysian citizens and 2 permanent residents

THARANYA ARUMUGAM
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

THERE were 13 new Covid-19 cases yesterday as the Health Ministry pledged to keep a close watch on the infection situation.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said eight cases were imported, consisting of six Malaysian citizens and two permanent residents.

The remaining five were locally transmitted cases involving three Malaysians and two foreigners.

"One of the locally transmitted cases among Malaysians was de-

tected during screening at the workplace in Kuala Lumpur, while two others were severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases admitted to Sarawak General Hospital.

"The locally transmitted cases involving foreigners were detected at the Bukit Jalil Immigration depot before they were sent back to their home country," he said at a press conference here yesterday.

The new cases brought the nationwide tally to 8,696 with 64 active cases. The number of new Covid-19 cases have been inconsistent in the past week.

While there were 10 new cases on July 4, the number dropped to six on Thursday.

Although there were zero locally transmitted cases on Wednesday and Thursday, Malaysia saw five locally transmitted cases yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said 12 more patients recovered and were discharged from hospitals yesterday, bringing the total number of

recovered cases to 8,511 (97.9 per cent of the total cases).

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

"No fatalities were reported to the Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre up to noon today (yesterday), maintaining the death toll at 121 (1.39 per cent)."

He said the ministry would keep a close watch on the Covid-19 situation by continuing detection tests.

Among them, he said, was through a clinical surveillance system such as the detection of cases of severe acute respiratory infection in hospitals.

"Today (yesterday), this surveillance system detected two positive cases comprising Malaysian citizens."

"Up to yesterday, 20,897 samples were taken, with 79 testing positive (0.38 per cent). This rate is less than one per cent, which means that infection is low in Malaysia."

Dr Noor Hisham said health of-

ficials in the public and private sectors would continue to receive training and the latest information on detecting and managing Covid-19 suspected cases such as Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and SARI in line with the guidelines developed based on international and local sources.

On a related matter, he said the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Covid-19 quarantine and low-risk treatment centre (PKRC) in Serdang saw its last patient discharged yesterday.

He said it was a prerequisite for foreigners to undergo mandatory screening for the virus before they were sent back to their countries.

"This is a repeat screening. They have been screened before and it is one of the conditions that they must be screened again before their repatriation."

He said of the 98 detainees screened at the Bukit Jalil Immigration depot, 91 comprised Indian nationals and seven Nigerians. Two tested positive.

"Those who tested positive have been isolated and are being treated at the hospital, while their close contacts will be quarantined for two weeks."

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

'Youth must invent more products to improve accessibility'

CYBERJAYA: Youth have been urged to innovate and create new products in the field of medical technology to improve access to medical facilities.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said youth must come up with ideas to compete locally and internationally, especially in dealing with the "new normal" challenges in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We welcome ideas that will solve problems in the medical field."

"The ministry will provide guidance, so we hope youth will continue to innovate and create more medical technology products."

He said this at the launch of Ethovent, Malaysia's first-of-its-kind semi-ventilator, which is an automated bagging machine to assist patients with breathing difficulties, at the Flagship Solutions and Social Entities event here.

The semi-ventilator replaces the need to use a bag valve mask or "Ambu bag", a handheld manual resuscitator.

Ethovent, developed by Saora

Industries Sdn Bhd, is one of the pilot projects under the National Technology and Innovation Sandbox (NTIS), which was announced under the Economic Recovery Plan (Penjana) last month.

Dr Adham said he was confident the NTIS initiative would change Malaysia from being a consumption nation to an innovator and producer nation.

"At the Health Ministry, we encourage medical innovation such as Ethovent."

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the use of the Ethovent semi-ventilator could be expanded to government health clinics or rural hospitals that did not have ventilator machines.

Ethovent, he said, had potential not just in Malaysia, but also overseas, where it could be used in battlefield medicine.

"The Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre, together with my ministry, will accelerate this innovation to actual commercialisation."

"We will also be assisting Saora Industries, which is part of NTIS,



Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba (fourth from left) and Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin (second from left) being briefed on Ethovent, Malaysia's first-of-its-kind semi-ventilator, by Dr Zainal Adwin, the medical adviser of Ethovent Sdn Bhd, at the launch of the semi-ventilator in Cyberjaya yesterday. With them are Saora Industries Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Ganesh Muren (left) and Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapasir (right). PIC BY MOHD FAULI HAMZAH

as well as special adviser to the prime minister on public health Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood on regulatory matters."

Saora Industries chief executive officer Ganesh Muren said the innovation addressed three key aspects: affordability, accessibility and reliability.

The idea for Ethovent, he said, was mooted two weeks after the

Movement Control Order was enforced.

"In Malaysia, we have 1,220 units of ventilator. It took a team of five people to create Ethovent in seven weeks."

Prior to the launch, the semi-ventilator had undergone clinical trials at Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital in Klang, Selangor.

Priced at RM8,500 each, Ganesh said Ethovent's intellectual property would be open sourced to social enterprises worldwide for them to adopt and build their version of the machine.

"We are looking forward to working with the Red Cross to make Ethovent's design, software and blueprint accessible in all 190 countries."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NEWS/ NATION

+ GESTURE OF APPRECIATION

King visits Shah Alam mural, meets painters

SHAH ALAM: Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah consented to visit Taman Cahaya Alam, Section U12, here, yesterday to see the giant mural painting of his portrait painted by three buddies on the wall of a building.

Accompanying him were the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah and their children, Tengku Puteri Iman Afzan, Tengku Muhammad Iskandar Ri'ayatuddin Shah and Tengku Puteri Afzan Aminah Hafizatul-lah.

Their arrival at around 3pm was greeted by the painters of the giant mural — Muhammad Suhaimi Ali, 27, Abdul Hadi Ramli, 27, and Muhamad Firdaus Nordin, 26.

Comptroller of the Royal Household for Istana Negara, Datuk Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin,



in a statement yesterday, said the King had expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the three painters during the 30-minute visit.

"Al-Sultan Abdullah expressed hope that the efforts of the three painters will be used as an example, source of inspiration and guide to the youth to better appreciate the leaders and the country and to use their time available in

the best possible manner," he said.

Al-Sultan Abdullah also handed over letters of appreciation and souvenirs to the three painters.

The king and his family also enjoyed a meal with the three artists.

Suhaimi said: "I was shocked and excited. It has become the sweetest memory and the best achievement for me because the

most prominent people in the country were willing to come to see it."

"I am fortunate because not all artists can obtain this sort of experience."

"My purpose in painting (the giant mural) is actually to dedicate my appreciation to the country's leaders who have sacrificed a lot of time and energy in ensuring that Malaysia is free from the Covid-19 pandemic threat."

The three painters had also dedicated portraits of Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Minister (Religious Affairs) Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri on the wall of the building. **Bernama**

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah posing in front of the giant mural in Shah Alam yesterday.
BERNAMA PIC

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : NATION

12 Nation

Student and boyfriend held over death of newborn

GEORGE TOWN: A college student and her boyfriend were picked up in connection with the death of a newborn after the baby was thrown out from a 13th floor apartment unit in Bandar Baru Ayer Itam.

The girl, 18, said to be the newborn's mother, was arrested at her unit while her boyfriend, also 18, was picked up at his house in Jalan Penawar yesterday.

The teenagers are expected to be remanded to assist in the investigation.

Earlier, a resident had lodged a police report after being told that the body a newborn girl was found on the road near the apartment's parking area.

George Town OCPD Asst Comm Sofian Santong said initial investigation revealed the girl had admitted to having sex with her boyfriend.

He said the girl did not inform her parents that she was pregnant.

"She woke up at about 6am after having stomach pain."

"She went to the bathroom, trying to defecate but instead, the baby fell into the toilet bowl."

"She then wrapped the baby with her clothes before tossing her out from her 13th floor apartment window," he said.

ACP Sofian said the case was being investigated under Section 302 of the Penal Code for murder.



Slow and steady:
The Pasar Pagi traders in Taipan USJ are back in business. Most of them are abiding by the SOP of one-way movement and wearing of masks. However, business is still slow compared to before and traders are happy just to be able to operate again. — SAM THAM/The Star

DG: 13 new Covid-19 cases, five local infections

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia recorded 13 new Covid-19 cases and this brings the total number of cases to 8,696.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said of the 13 cases, eight were imported ones while the remaining five were local infections.

The eight import cases involved six Malaysians and two permanent residents who were infected with Covid-19 abroad, he added.

The five transmissions here involved three Malaysians and two non-citizens.

He said of the three Malaysians,



two in Sarawak displayed Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) symptoms, with a Malaysian in

Kuala Lumpur screened prior to returning to work.

The two non-Malaysians were foreigners being held at the Bukit Jalil immigration depot.

Dr Noor Hisham said 12 patients were discharged, which means 8,511 patients or 97.9% had recovered from Covid-19 since the outbreak began.

There are now 64 patients being treated at health facilities nationwide.

Dr Noor Hisham said that two Covid-19 patients are being treated in intensive care units requiring ventilator support.

He announced that there were no new deaths, which means the death toll remained at 121.

At the same, Dr Noor Hisham said the Low-Risk Patient Quarantine and Treatment Centre for Covid-19 cases at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) will be officially closed on July 15.

He said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba witnessed the last patient being discharged from the centre yesterday.

Up to July 10, the centre treated 1,362 patients, with 86% comprising non-Malaysians.

'We'll focus on screening high-risk groups'

DG: Experts from China have said not all above 50 need to get tested

By LOH FOON FONG
foonfong@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry will not screen every person above the age of 50 for now as suggested by one of the eight Chinese health experts who came to Malaysia recently, says Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said the ministry would continue to focus and increase the screening involving high-risk groups, in addition to influenza-like illness and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection cases and asymptomatic surveillance in pre-operation cases.

However, he said among those in the high-risk group targeted to be screened for Covid-19 were senior citizens aged 60 and above.

In Malaysia, older persons are defined as those who are aged 60 and above, estimated at 10.3% of the total population (about 32 million).

"From 16,361 (89.8%) senior citizens screened among 18,212 occupants in nursing homes throughout Malaysia, only 30 cases or 0.2% tested positive," said Dr Noor Hisham in an interview.

He was asked whether there was a need to cast the net wider to cover screening and Covid-19 testing for those aged 50 and above as the country opens up further after

a partial lockdown.

One of the Chinese experts, Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital associate chief physician of intensive care unit Dr Wen Miaoyun, had recommended that Malaysia extend Covid-19 testing using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method to those aged above 50 as the country relaxed the movement control order.

After the lockdown in Wuhan was lifted, Dr Wen said China stepped up its PCR testing by targeting citizens aged above 50, those with respiratory symptoms and a history of close contact.

The Chinese expert said the move was carried out as 13% of China's Covid-19 patients were asymptomatic.

The group of Chinese health experts were in Malaysia for an exchange of knowledge with the ministry.

Dr Noor Hisham said of the 8,640 positive Covid-19 cases reported in the country as of July 1, only 26% were above the age of 50.

"We have a comprehensive containment phase of Covid-19 such as a screening programme set for nine targeted populations, which include residents and staff members at nursing homes," he said.

He said the ministry would also study the community immunity in various groups.