

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM sambut baik keputusan elak penularan jangkitan

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menyambut baik, keputusan pengisytiharan darurat di Parlimen Batu Sapi, kerana ia boleh membantu mencegah penularan jangkitan COVID-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata KKM sejak dari awal lagi, melahirkan kebimbangan terhadap risiko penularan pandemik itu, jika pilihan raya diadakan.

Beliau berkata, ia berikutan peningkatan kes dan isu yang timbul selepas Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN) dijalankan di Sabah pada akhir September lalu.

"Memang KKM dari awal lagi, amat bimbang sekiranya ada pilihan raya, sama ada Pilihan Raya Kecil (PRK), PRN atau Pilihan Raya Umum (PRU).

"Syor KKM dari dulu lagi, jika boleh, elakkan pilihan raya. Inilah pendapat KKM.

"Kalau boleh amat penting untuk mengelakkan PRK (diadakan)

 **Syor KKM dari dulu lagi, jika boleh, elakkan pilihan raya. Kalau boleh amat penting untuk mengelakkan PRK (diadakan).**

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

supaya kita dapat mencegah penularan COVID-19 dalam negara," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, di sini, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham mengulas persetujuan Yang di-Pertuan Agong mengisytiharkan Proklamasi Darurat terhadap Parlimen Batu Sapi, Sabah, bagi mengelak PRK sebagai langkah proaktif membendung gejala wabak COVID-19.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Malaysia, China bangunkan vaksin

Perjanjian fokus kerjasama perangi pandemik secara agresif

Oleh Sophia Ahmad
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Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia dan China semalam memeterai perjanjian membabitkan usaha membangunkan vaksin COVID-19 yang selamat serta berkesan.

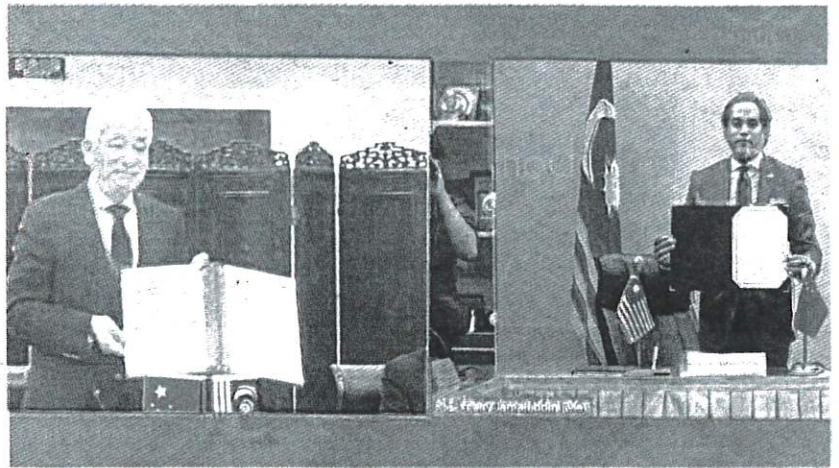
Perjanjian berkenaan memfokus kepada kerjasama erat antara kedua-dua negara bagi memera-

ngi secara agresif pandemik COVID-19.

Ia ditandatangani Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Khairy Jamaluddin, manakala China diwakili rakan sejawatnya, Wang Zhigang dalam satu majlis yang diadakan secara maya.

Satu kenyataan bersama Kementerian Luar dan Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) menyebut, perjanjian terbabit akan beroperasi di bawah pemantauan Jawatankuasa Tinggi, dipengerusikan bersama Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein serta rakan sejawat dari China, Wang Yi.

"Kerjasama ini sudah dipersetujui pada 13 Oktober lalu, bagi



Khairy dan Wang Zhigang menunjukkan dokumen perjanjian antara Malaysia dan China bابتkan usaha membangunkan vaksin COVID-19 yang selamat serta berkesan.

mempromosikan kerjasama pragmatik dan pendekatan lebih serius dalam menangani cabaran pasca pandemik," kata kenyataan itu.

Terdahulu pada majlis peme- teraian itu, Khairy dan Wang Zhigang berkata, kedua-dua negara bersetuju untuk meningkatkan kerjasama dalam menangani segala isu berkaitan COVID-19 menerusi diplomasi sains.

"Perjanjian ini membolehkan Malaysia mendapat keutamaan

memperoleh bekalan vaksin COVID-19 yang dibangunkan China, perkongsian ilmu dan kepakaran, selain kemudahan saintifik serta keupayaan teknologi.

"Ia bagi membolehkan pemban- gunan vaksin dilakukan dengan lebih canggih dan maju di ke- dua-dua negara," tambah kenya- taan itu.

Kedua-dua negara juga akan sal- ing menyokong penyertaan sek- tor awam dan swasta, termasuk universiti, institusi, persatuan

serta pertubuhan dalam kerjasa- ma berkenaan.

"Turut mendapat persetujuan kedua-dua kerajaan ialah usaha menggalakkan lebih banyak perniagaan mengukuhkan aspek penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) serta bekalan.

Perjanjian itu sah untuk tempoh hingga lima tahun dan di- lanjutkan secara automatik sela- ma setahun pada satu-satu masa, tertakluk kepada persetujuan ke- dua-dua belah pihak.

SOP wajibkan saring pekerja asing diputus esok

Kuala Lumpur: Kerajaan akan membuat keputusan esok berhu- bung prosedur operasi standard (SOP) untuk mewajibkan kira- kira 1.7 juta pekerja asing di negara ini menjalani ujian saringan CO- VID-19 secara berkala.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, berkata mesyuarat Majlis Kese- lamatan Negara (MKN) pada Ju- maat (esok) akan memperinci dan memutuskan SOP ujian saringan, termasuk pembiayaannya serta tempoh masa ujian berkala ter- babit.

"Kita sudah berbincang dengan PERKESO dan mereka setuju tanggung sebahagian kos dari- pada 1.7 juta pekerja, yang mem- bayar (mencarum di bawah PER- KESO) satu juta (pekerja).

"PERKESO hanya bayar RM150 bagi setiap PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction test). Kos sebenar ujian RM300 hingga RM350, ba- kinya pekerja akan bayar. Kita juga menimbang supaya majikan boleh tanggung. Kita juga ada ca- dangkan RTK antigen kerana kos- nya sekitar RM30 sahaja, kalau buat sendiri pun tidak terlalu mahal," katanya pada sidang me- dia, semalam.

Katanya, kerajaan juga menga- mbil kira risiko jika kebenaran ujian saringan terbabit dilaksana membabitkan keseluruhan pekerja- ja asing berkenaan boleh menim-

bulkan kesesakan di klinik dan hospital.

Mengulas perkembangan sama, Menteri Kanan (Infrastruktur), Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, berkata pihaknya sedang meneliti sama ada langkah mewajibkan semua pekerja asing di tapak pembinaan menjalani saringan COVID-19 se- tiap dua minggu seperti di Singa- pura, boleh dilaksanakan di ne- gara ini.

Katanya, peraturan itu adalah antara langkah bagi mengetatkan SOP dalam usaha mengurangkan penularan COVID-19 di tapak pembinaan, selain di perumahan mereka. Kerajaan mahu cari jalan terbaik mengurangkan risiko pe-

Kerajaan juga ambil kira risiko jika kebenaran ujian saringan terbabit dilaksana bابتkan keseluruhan pekerja asing berkenaan boleh menimbulkan kesesakan di klinik dan hospital.

Ismail Sabri Yaakob,
Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan)

nularan dan menjadikan tapak pembinaan lebih selamat.

"Kita akan berhubung dengan pemain industri sama ada pa- raturan mewajibkan ujian saringan COVID-19 setiap dua minggu ini boleh dibuat untuk pekerja asing di tapak pembinaan negara ini," katanya pada sidang media Pasca Belanjawan 2021 Kementerian Kerja Raya, semalam.

Sementara itu, dalam perkem- bangan lain, Ismail Sabri berkata, kerajaan tidak bercadang melak- sanakan Perintah Kawalan Per- gerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) di seluruh Lembah Klang berikutan peningkatan mendadak kes CO- VID-19 ketika ini. Sebaliknya, PK- PD hanya dilaksana di kawasan lebih khusus yang merekodkan kes jangkitan tinggi.

"Kita boleh buat penilaian ri- siko kerana peningkatan menda- dak kes di Selangor. Kita sudah buat dua PKPD di Medan 88 Sepang dan Meru di Kapar, peru- manan pekerja Top Glove.

Kerajaan mengenakan PKPD di Medan 88, Salak Tinggi di Sepang bermula 12 November hingga 25 November ini sementara PKPD selama 14 hari dikuatkuasakan di asrama pekerja asing Top Glove Corp Bhd di Meru, Klang, mulai kelmarin membabitkan 5,700 pe- kerja.

Beliau turut memaklumkan ba- hawa sempadan negara masih di-



Kalitangan Kementerian Kesihatan mengambil ujian saringan COVID-19 kepada seorang pekerja di sebuah tapak pembinaan di Penampang, Sabah.

(Foto Malai Rosmah Tuah/BH)

tutup dengan kawalan keluar ma- suk terus diperketatkan bagi mengelak penularan jangkitan ba- ru dari negara jiran.

Berhubung perkembangan PK- PD, Ismail Sabri berkata, perintah itu di Pusat Tahanan Sementara (PTS) Tawau, Penjara Sandakan dan Kuarters Penjara Taman Wi-

ra, Sandakan akan dilanjutkan 14 hari lagi hingga 3 Disember.

Keputusan itu diambil susulan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) masih merekodkan jumlah kes ak- tif dan bilangan sampel saringan COVID-19 yang belum mendapat keputusan bagi dua lokaliti ter- babit.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

KKM buka pusat kawalan bersepadu Lembah Klang

Penubuhan bantu lancarkan tadbir urus, operasi hospital, pusat kuarantin

Oleh Rafidah Mat Ruzki dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
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Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menubuhkan Pusat Kawalan Bersepadu COVID-19 di Wilayah Tengah bagi membantu melancarkan tadbir urus dan pengoperasian semua hospital serta Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) di Selangor, Putrajaya dan Kuala Lumpur.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Ab-

dullah, berkata dengan adanya pusat kawalan bersepadu itu, ia secara tidak langsung dapat membantu melancarkan pengurusan wabak COVID-19 di kawasan berkenaan.

"Pusat kawalan ini diketuai Pengarah Kesihatan Selangor, Datuk Dr Sha'ari Ngadiman dan akan dibantu Pakar Perubatan Kecemasan dari Hospital Sungai Buloh (HSgB), Dr Sarah Shaikh Abdul Karim sebagai timbalannya," katanya pada sidang media, semalam.

Mengenai kesiapsiagaan COVID-19 di Lembah Klang, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, pihaknya sudah meningkatkan jumlah katil sebanyak 14 kali ganda, iaitu daripada 345 ke 4,739 katil di Selangor, Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya.

"Di HSgB jumlah katil sudah ditingkatkan kepada 630 diikuti di Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL), iaitu 631, Pihak kementerian tu-

rut menukar status Hospital Rehabilitasi Cheras (HRC) kepada hospital hibrid COVID-19 dengan 230 katil.

"Kita turut membuka semula lapan blok Institut Latihan KKM (ILKKM) di Sg Buloh sebagai

Dengan adanya pusat kawalan bersepadu itu, ia secara tidak langsung dapat membantu melancarkan pengurusan wabak COVID-19 di kawasan berkenaan.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah,
Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

PKRC dengan kapasiti 2,400 katil dan meneruskan penggunaan Pusat Kawalan Kusta Negara (PKKN) sebagai PKRC yang memuatkan sebanyak 648 katil," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan pada peringkat awal gelombang ketiga COVID-19 di negara ini, pihaknya hanya menggunakan HSgB dan HKL sebagai hospital rawatan COVID-19.

Bagi Pusat Kawalan Kusta Negara (PKKN) pula ia dijadikan sebagai PKRC bagi pesakit kategori 1 dan 2 di Selangor, Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya.

"Namun, peningkatan jumlah pesakit COVID-19 di kawasan ini mengakibatkan hospital berkenaan mencatatkan kadar penggunaan katil yang tinggi dan kita terpaksa menambah bilangan katil bagi menampung kemasukan pesakit susulan lonjakan kes positif di Lembah Klang," katanya.

Elaun khas petugas kesihatan diberi secara bersasar

Putrajaya: Pemberian elaun khas COVID-19 kepada petugas kesihatan adalah secara bersasar dan terhad kepada mereka yang melakukan skop tugas berkaitan dengan COVID-19.

Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min, berkata pemberian itu juga bukan berterusan, sebaliknya pegawai yang tidak lagi melaksanakan skop kerja berkaitan COVID-19, tidak lagi layak menerima bayaran elaun khas ini.

"Pegawai dan anggota kesihatan yang sebelum ini tidak dibayar elaun khas berkenaan, mereka akan menerima bayaran elaun khas ini sekiranya diarah melakukan skop tugas berkaitan dengan COVID-19 oleh Ketua Jabatan," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Chaw Min berkata, sebahagian besar pegawai dan petugas kesihatan masih melaksanakan skop tugas seperti biasa dan bertugas di fasiliti kesihatan yang bukan dikhaskan untuk saringan dan rawatan wabak.

Beliau berkata demikian bagi menjawab artikel dikeluarkan oleh sebuah akhbar berbahasa Inggeris pada 7 September lalu bertajuk *Not all Penang Hospital staff receive allowance*.

Chaw Min berkata, seperti yang dimaklumkan sebelum ini, kerajaan bersetuju memberikan elaun khas COVID-19 sebagai menghargai pengorbanan dan komitmen petugas kesihatan yang berisiko dijangkiti wabak berkenaan ketika melaksanakan skop tugas yang diberikan.

"Perkara ini dijelaskan terperinci menerusi Surat Pekeliling Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Bilangan 2 Tahun 2020 dan Surat Edaran Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian bertarikh 21 April 2020," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, mengenai pemberian elaun khas COVID-19 di Hospital Pulau Pinang, Chaw Min berkata, pihaknya mengesahkan semua petugas kesihatan diarah dan masih bertugas dalam rantaian pengurusan COVID-19 sudah menerima elaun khas berkenaan.

"Jumlah elaun khas dibayar kepada petugas kesihatan di Hospital Pulau Pinang bagi tempoh Mac hingga September 2020 adalah RM3,076,300.

"Pengurusan Hospital Pulau Pinang juga mengadakan beberapa siri libat urus dengan pegawai bagi menjelaskan mengenai kelayakan diberi elaun khas ini dan keperluan pegawai dibabitkan secara langsung dalam pengurusan wabak COVID-19 di hospital itu," katanya.

Kes jangkitan kembali 3 angka, 8 kluster baharu

Putrajaya: Kes baharu positif COVID-19 semalam kembali menurun tiga angka, iaitu 660 menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes di negara ini sebanyak 50,309.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata ia menjadikan jumlah kes aktif dan kebolehan jangkitan COVID-19 di negara ini sebanyak 12,814.

Katanya, daripada jumlah itu, ada empat kes import dikesan mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara, iaitu dua dari Turki dan masing-masing satu dari India dan Arab.

"Sabah mencatatkan sebanyak 387 kes baharu, iaitu 58.6 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes semalam, manakala di Lembah Klang 173 dilaporkan menunjukkan penurunan 66.6 peratus berbanding jumlah kes dilaporkan kelmarin.

"Selain itu, 171 kes atau 25.9 peratus dikesan dalam kluster di penjara dan Pusat Tahanan Sementara," katanya di sini, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan empat kematian dilaporkan semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes kematian disebabkan

COVID-19 sebanyak 322 kes bersamaan 0.6 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

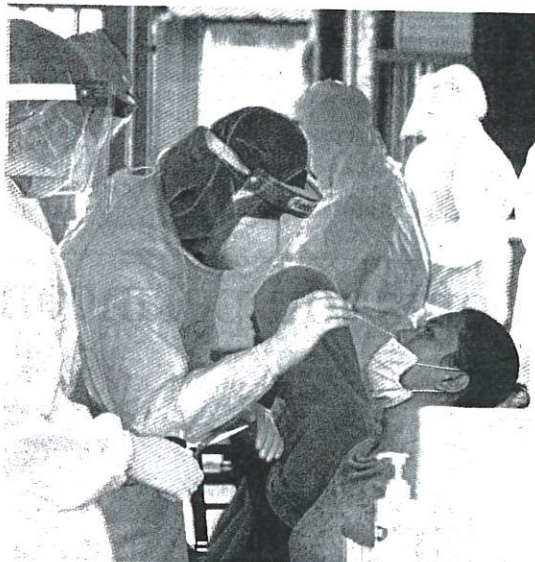
Katanya, kes kematian itu masing-masing dua dikesan di Ipoh, Perak dan Sandakan, Sabah membabitkan tiga wanita dan seorang lelaki yang mempunyai penyakit kronik.

Sementara itu, sehingga jam 12 tengah hari ini (semalam), terdapat 630 kes sembuh dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes sembuh di negara ini 37,254 bersamaan 73.9 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan.

Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan lapan kluster baharu dikenal pasti, iaitu tiga di beberapa daerah di Sabah serta masing-masing satu di sekitar Lembah Klang, Putrajaya, Pulau Pinang, Sarawak dan Johor.

Katanya, kluster pertama di Sabah dikesan di Lahad Datu sebagai Kluster Sabaru dan menjangkiti 88 individu, termasuk 70 kes baharu semalam.

Bagi kluster kedua dikesan di Ranau sebagai Kluster Tomher dan kini menjangkiti 20 individu dan kluster ketiga direkod di Tawau, iaitu Kluster Garden yang menjangkiti 11 individu.



Petugas kesihatan membuat ujian saringan di asrama pekerja sebuah syarikat di Meru, Klang. (Foto Eizaltri Shamsudin/BH)

"Kluster keempat dikesan di Putrajaya, Petaling dan Sepang dikenali Kluster Putra-18 dan menjangkiti tujuh individu.

"Kluster kelima pula dikesan di Cheras, Kepong dan Petaling dikenali sebagai Kluster Murni. Kluster ini menjangkiti tujuh individu," katanya.

Katanya, kluster keenam dikenali sebagai Kluster Pasir dikesan di daerah Timur Laut di Pu-

lau Pinang yang kini menjangkiti 11 individu, manakala Kluster Besi Demak dikesan di Kuching, Sarawak kini sudah menjangkiti lima individu.

"Kluster kelapan dikenali sebagai Kluster Parit Kassan, dikesan di Tangkak, Johor dan Melaka Tengah di Melaka.

"Kluster ini menjangkiti 11 individu, termasuk kes baharu semalam," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEGARA

660 penularan harian, 630 pesakit sembuh dengan empat kematian direkodkan

Kes positif Covid-19 melebihi 50,000

Oleh SITI A'ISYAH SUKAIMI

PUTRAJAYA – Angka kes positif Covid-19 di seluruh negara kini melebihi 50,000 dengan pertambahan 660 kes baharu semalam menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan terkini sebanyak 50,390 kes.

Sebanyak 387 kes baharu atau 58.6 peratus direkodkan di Sabah, manakala Lembah Klang mencatatkan 173 kes iaitu penurunan 345 kes atau 66.6 peratus berbanding kelmarin.

Terdapat pertambahan empat kes kematian di Perak dan Sabah melibatkan tiga wanita dan seorang lelaki berusia antara 59 hingga 80 tahun dengan pelbagai latar belakang penyakit menjadikan sebanyak 322 kes kematian terkini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, terdapat lapan kluster baharu dikenal pasti semalam dan satu daripadanya Kluster Sabaru di Lahad Datu dengan kes indeks ialah saringan bergejala telah dimasukkan ke Hospital Lahad Datu.

Menurutnya, susulan itu se-

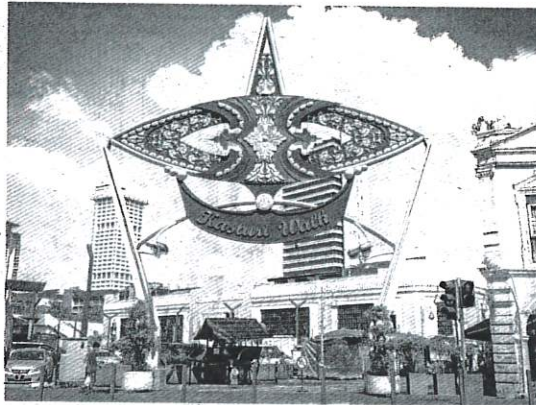
banyak 87 lagi kes positif dikesan daripada saringan komuniti di kawasan setempat dan kesemuanya telah dimasukkan Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah, Sepagaya.

"Kluster Tomher pula di Ranau melibatkan 20 kes positif iaitu pekerja buruh binaan hasil saringan kumpulan berisiko tinggi dan telah dimasukkan ke Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah, Dewan Kompleks Sukan Ranau.

"Seterusnya, Kluster Garden di Tawau iaitu kes indeks saringan bergejala dan susulan itu 10 lagi kontak rapat dikesan positif serta telah dimasukkan ke Hospital Tawau," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, Kluster Putra-18 pula di Putrajaya serta di Petaling dan Sepang, Selangor dengan kes indeks saringan bergejala telah dimasukkan ke Hospital Sungai Buloh sekali gus mengesan enam kes positif dalam kluster ini.

"Kluster Murni pula di Cheras dan Kepong, Kuala Lumpur serta Petaling, Selangor melibatkan tu-



TINJAUAN di Pasar Seni, Kuala Lumpur yang lengang tanpa pengunjung berikutan pandemik Covid 19. – SHIDDIEQIIN ZON

juh kes positif dengan kes indeks saringan bergejala dan kesemuanya dimasukkan ke Hospital Sungai Buloh.

"Bagi Kluster Seri Pasir dikenal pasti di Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang membabitkan 11-kes positif iaitu kes indeks hasil saringan berge-

jala dan kesemuanya dimasukkan ke Hospital Pulau Pinang," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Noor Hisham berkata, satu lagi kluster ialah Kluster Besi Demak di Kuching, Sarawak melibatkan lima kes positif dengan kes indeks hasil

Angka Terkini Kes Covid-19 Di Malaysia sehingga semalam

	Jumlah
• Kes baharu	660
• Import: 4 Tempatan: 656	
• Pulih	630
• Kematian	4
• Masih dirawat	12,814
• Jumlah kes sembuh	37,254
• Jumlah Kematian	322
Jumlah kes keseluruhan	50,390

saringan bergejala dan kesemuanya dimasukkan ke Hospital Umum Sarawak.

Ujarnya, Kluster Parit Kassin pula dikesan di Tangkak, Johor dan Melaka Tengah, Melaka melibatkan 11 kes positif dengan kes indeks ini saringan bergejala dan dimasukkan ke Hospital Enche' Besar Hajjah Khalsom, Johor.



PEKERJA Top Glove di Klang menunggu bekalan makanan di hadapan asrama mereka kelmarin. – ZULFADHLI ZAKI

Tidak perlu PKPD di Lembah Klang

Oleh NUR HUDA MUSA

PETALING JAYA – Kerajaan tidak bercadang untuk melaksanakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) di Lembah Klang berikutan peningkatan kes Covid-19.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, PKPD hanya akan dilaksanakan di kawasan tertentu yang merekodkan kes tinggi.

"Kita boleh buat penilaian risiko kerana peningkatan men-

dadak kes Covid-19 di Selangor. Setakat ini, kita sudah laksanakan dua PKPD iaitu di Medan 88 Sepang dan Meru, Kapar membatalkan perumahan pekerja Top Glove.

"Setakat ini kerajaan tidak merancang untuk menutup seluruh Wilayah Persekutuan dan Selangor kerana kita boleh lakukan secara bersasar," katanya menerusi sidang akhbar menerusi Facebook Kementerian Pertahanan semalam.

Terdahulu, Ketua Pengarah

Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, peningkatan mendadak kes Covid-19 di Lembah Klang sejak kebelakangan ini disebabkan peningkatan kes berkaitan dengan tempat kerja.

Menurutnya, itu berikutan Selangor, Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya adalah pusat tumpuan warga pekerja.

Kepadatan penduduk di Lembah Klang juga menjadi salah satu faktor meningkatnya kadar kebolehhangkitan Covid-19.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 5
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

Kadar kematian di Malaysia rendah

PUTRAJAYA – Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mendedahkan kadar kematian akibat Covid-19 di Malaysia berada pada tahap rendah iaitu sembilan kematian bagi setiap sejuta penduduk.

Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan (Perubatan), Datuk Dr. Rohaizat Yon berkata, berdasarkan data antarabangsa, Worldometer.info, kematian bagi setiap satu juta penduduk di Amerika Syarikat adalah 741, United Kingdom (732), Filipina (70) dan Indonesia (54).

Beliau berkata, analisis menunjukkan kematian di negara ini kebanyakannya terdiri daripada pesakit berusia 50 tahun ke atas iaitu sebanyak 85.4 peratus.

"Lain-lain faktor utama yang turut menyumbang kepada kematian pesakit Covid-19 di Malaysia adalah bilangan komorbiditi yang dihadapi seperti penyakit darah tinggi, kencing manis dan jantung serta jangka masa pe-

Perbandingan kadar kematian Covid-19 di Malaysia dengan negara lain

NEGARA	JUMLAH KES KUMULATIF	JUMLAH KES SEMBUH	JUMLAH KEMATIAN	KEMATIAN/ 1 JUTA PENDUDUK
AMERIKA SYARIKAT	10,568,714	6,602,517	245,943	31,862
UNITED KINGDOM	1,233,775	N/A	49,770	732
INDONESIA	444,348	375,741	14,761	54
FILIPINA	399,749	361,919	7,661	70
MALAYSIA	42,050	30,304	300	9

Sumber: Worldometer.info setakat 11 November 2020

sakit mendapatkan rawatan di fasiliti kesihatan.

"Pelbagai strategi dirancang dan dilaksanakan KKM telah menunjukkan kesan positif di mana kadar kematian yang direkodkan setakat ini di Malaysia adalah 0.6 peratus masih rendah berbanding rekod kematian di negara

lain," katanya menerusi kenyataan di Facebook KKM semalam.

Tambahnya, perjuangan memutuskan rantaian penularan Covid-19 masih belum selesai dan Kementerian berusaha mempertingkatkan kadar sembuh dan mengurangkan kadar kematian.

Penghuni Medan 88 beri kerjasama baik

SEPANG – Kira-kira 126 penghuni dari kawasan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) di Medan 88, Bandar Baru Salak Tinggi (BBST) mulai menjalani ujian saringan Covid-19 secara berperingkat.

Ini berikutan arahan pihak berkuasa sebelum ini yang mengarahkan penghuni terdiri majikan setiap premis dan pekerja kedai serta pejabat di Medan 88 tampil menjalani ujian saringan Covid-19.

Ketetapan menjalani ujian saringan selama dua hari itu bermula kelmarin dari pukul 8 pagi hingga 1 tengah hari.

Tinjauan *Kosmo* di kawasan itu mendapati, rata-rata penghuni di Medan 88 memberi kerjasama yang baik.

Kebanyakannya tampil menjalani ujian saringan berkenaan seawal pukul 8 pagi secara berperingkat.

Difahamkan, kedai runcit yang dibuka hanyalah untuk penghuni Medan 88 membeli

barangan asas, bagaimanapun waktu operasi ditetapkan sehingga pukul 2 petang.

Sementara itu, seramai lapan lagi penduduk di Medan 88 yang menghilangkan diri dari kawasan itu dilaporkan sudah pulang menyerah diri semalam.

Ketua Polis Daerah Sepang, Asisten Komisioner Wan Kamarul Azran Wan Yusof berkata, setakat semalam seramai 42 penduduk sudah pulang.

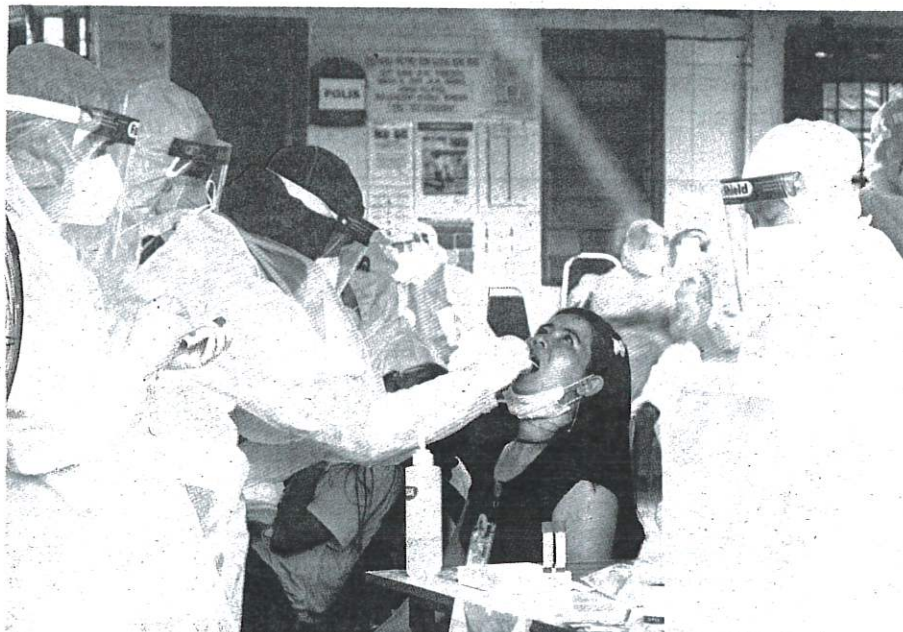
"Setakat ini jumlah penduduk yang direkodkan adalah seramai 383 individu termasuk dua warga tempatan yang pulang selepas selesai menjalani rawatan Covid-19 di Hospital Sungai Buloh," katanya.

PKPD di kawasan itu diumumkan Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, bermula 12 November lalu sehingga 25 November membabitkan 88 unit rumah kedai, 284 premis dan seramai 800 penduduk.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : COVID-19



PEKERJA syarikat Top Glove menjalani saringan Covid-19 susulan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) di asrama pekerja wanita di Meru, semalam.

Kes positif menurun

Sabah kekal penyumbang tertinggi, empat kematian direkodkan

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Kuala Lumpur

Jumlah kes positif Covid-19 menurun dengan 660 kes direkodkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, jumlah itu menjadikan kes positif di Malaysia sebanyak 50,390 kes dengan kes aktif sebanyak 12,814 kes sehingga jam 12 tengah hari.



Menurutnya, Sabah terus mencatatkan jumlah kes positif tertinggi dengan 387 kes

direkodkan manakala negeri di Lembah Klang menunjukkan penurunan apabila hanya 173 kes direkodkan.

"Daripada keseluruhan kes yang direkodkan, hanya empat kes membabitkan kes import dari Turki, India dan Arab Saudi.

"Sehingga kini, terdapat 103 kes positif sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi dengan 41 kes memerlukan

bantuan pernafasan," katanya pada sidang media harian Covid-19 di Putrajaya, semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, empat kematian direkodkan semalam menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan 322 kes.

Katanya, pesakit yang meninggal dunia masing-masing seorang lelaki dan tiga wanita berusia 59 hingga 80 tahun.

"Jumlah kes pulih hari ini (semalam) sebanyak 630 kes menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes yang pulih sepenuhnya adalah 37,254 kes," katanya.

“
Hanya empat kes
membabitkan kes
import dari Turki,
India dan Arab
Saudi
Dr Noor Hisham

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : COVID-19

KKM, empat kementerian komited tangani masalah mental

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) bekerjasama dengan empat kementerian bagi meningkatkan kesejahteraan kesihatan mental masyarakat khususnya dalam kalangan remaja dan belia.

Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, kerjasama itu dijalinan dengan Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia (KPM), Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi (KPT), Kementerian Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat (KPWKM) dan Kementerian Belia dan Sukan (KBS).

Ini kerana, katanya, KKM menyedari bahawa permasalahan ke-

sihatan mental turut dipengaruhi oleh faktor sosial dan bukan masalah kesihatan semata-mata.

"KKM sudah mengambil inisiatif mengemukakan permohonan peruntukan untuk pelaksanaan program kesihatan mental, pencegahan kecederaan dan keganasan serta penyalahgunaan substans. Sebanyak RM24 juta diluluskan semasa pembentangan Belanjawan 2021.

"Di seluruh Malaysia perkhidmatan kesihatan mental dilaksanakan di 1,001 klinik kesihatan di peringkat primer, empat institusi mental dan 66 hospital KKM," katanya pada soal jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan **Nor Azrina Surip (PH-Merbok)**, minta Menteri Kesihatan menyatakan sejauh mana KKM memperluaskan hala tuju dan liputan kesihatan mental dan tidak hanya dilihat sebagai masalah kesihatan semata-mata supaya dapat mewujudkan masyarakat yang penyayang, inklusif dan berdaya tahan.

Dr Adham berkata, perkhidmatan kaunseling dan psikologi diberikan oleh seramai 148 Pegawai Psikologi (Kaunseling) KKM.

Selain itu, katanya, terdapat tambahan seramai 200 pegawai psikologi kaunseling ditempatkan di daerah seluruh Malaysia bagi

memperkuatkan perkhidmatan kesihatan mental, pencegahan kecederaan dan keganasan dan penyalahgunaan substans.

"Penempatan ini akan turut menyokong perkhidmatan kaunseling oleh JKM di lapangan," katanya.

Menurutnya, beberapa program turut diadakan KKM bersama kementerian lain seperti Program Minda Sihat Sekolah yang dilaksanakan bersama KPM di 2,440 sekolah menengah dan 7,780 sekolah rendah.

Program itu katanya, bagi mempromosikan kesihatan mental dan mengenalpasti pelajar yang mengalami masalah emosi atau ting-

kah laku.

"Program Pearl (Program Ekspresi Anak Remaja Lestari) memfokuskan kepada kemahiran daya tindak/tahan dan resiliensi dalam kalangan pelajar bagi menangani masalah seperti buli atau tingkah laku berisiko.

"Program Siswa Sihat (Prosis) di institusi pengajian tinggi awam (IPTA) dan institusi pengajian tinggi swasta (IPTS) secara kolaborasi bersama KPT.

"Berkolaborasi dengan pihak KPWKM dalam pelaksanaan program Perkhidmatan Sokongan Psikososial dan menyokong Program Kafe@Teen," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : COVID-19

660 kes baharu, 4 kematian

8 kluster baharu, 3 diisytihar tamat

656 kes penularan tempatan, selebihnya dari Turki, India dan Arab Saudi

PUTRAJAYA

Selepas merekodkan bilangan kes harian empat angka sejak 13 November lalu, kes baharu positif pandemik koronavirus (Covid-19) di Malaysia turun kepada tiga angka iaitu 660 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, perkembangan terbaru itu menjadikan angka kumulatif positif Covid-19 berjumlah 50,390 kes dengan bilangan kes aktif pula sebanyak 12,814 kes.

Katanya, 630 kes pulih direkodkan dalam tempoh 24 jam lepas.

"Daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak 656

kes ialah penularan dalam negara, manakala empat lagi kes import yang mendapat jangkitan di Turki sebanyak dua kes, India (satu) dan Arab Saudi (satu).

"Bagi penularan dalam negara melibatkan kes di Sabah sebanyak 387 kes, Selangor (139), Negeri Sembilan (31), Kuala Lumpur (29), Pulau Pinang (16), Perak (16), Labuan (13), Kedah (11), Melaka (empat), Sarawak (tiga), Johor (tiga), Kelantan (tiga) dan Putrajaya (satu)," katanya pada sidang akhbar perkembangan harian Covid-19 di sini semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, terdapat empat kes kematian direkodkan menjadikan jumlah terkumpul kematian akibat Covid-19 sebanyak 322 kes.

"Pada masa ini, sejumlah 103 kes dirawat di unit rawatan rapi dengan 41 memerlukan bantuan pernafasan," katanya.



DR NOOR HISHAM

Jelasnya, KKM mengambil beberapa langkah menampung kemasukan pesakit susulan lonjakan kes positif Covid-19 di Lembah Klang antaranya menambah jumlah katil rawatan di Hospital Sungai Buloh (HSgB) kepada 630 katil dan Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL) kepada 831 katil serta menukar status Hospital Rehabilitasi Cheras (HRC) kepada Hospital Hibrid Covid-19 dengan 230 katil.

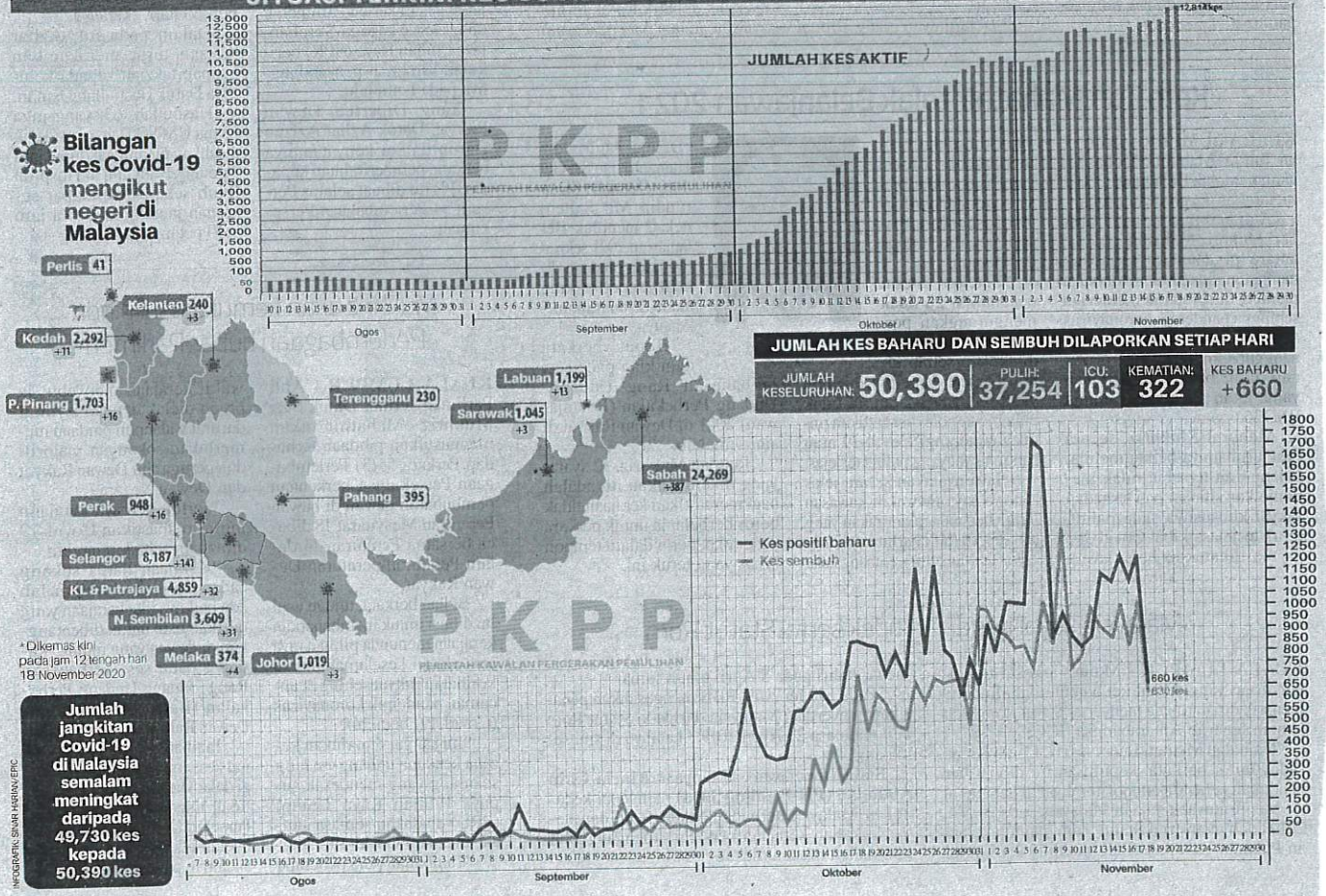
"Selain itu, kita juga membuka semula lapan blok Institut Latihan KKM (ILKKM) Sungai Buloh sebagai Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 bersiko rendah (PKRC) dengan kapasiti 2,400 katil dan meneruskan penggunaan Pusat Kawalan Kusta Negara (PKKN) sebagai PKRC dengan kapasiti semasa 648 katil," katanya. - *Bernama*

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengenal pasti lapan kluster baharu, manakala tiga kluster diisytihar telah tamat semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, tiga kluster baharu melibatkan Sabah iaitu Kluster Sabaru, Kluster Tomber dan Kluster Garden manakala yang lain ialah Kluster Putra-18 (Putrajaya, Selangor), Kluster Murni (Kuala Lumpur, Selangor), Kluster Seri Pasir (Pulau Pinang), Kluster Besi Demak (Sarawak) dan Kluster Parit Kassin (Johor, Melaka).

Beliau berkata, tiga kluster diisytiharkan tamat iaitu Kluster Kencana (Selangor, Johor, Kuala Lumpur dan Terengganu), Kluster Bah Sintok (Kedah, Negeri Sembilan dan Selangor) serta Kluster Seri Anggerik (Selangor).

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Lebih 24 hari tiada kes baharu Covid-19

Sidang DUN Pahang beri *standing ovation* buat pasukan Covid-19 di negeri itu sebagai tanda penghargaan

Oleh NIK AMIRUL MU'MIN
NIK MIN

KUANTAN

Persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Pahang ke-14 yang berlangsung di Wisma Sri Pahang di sini semalam memberikan *standing ovation* kepada pasukan Covid-19 di negeri itu sebagai tanda penghargaan. Setiausaha Kerajaan Negeri

Pahang, Datuk Seri Dr Sallehuddin Ishak berkata, sehingga semalam, Pahang kekal tanpa sebarang kes jangkitan baharu Covid-19 untuk tempoh lebih 24 hari dan tiada kes aktif wabak pandemik itu di hospital di negeri itu.

"Kami yang terlibat secara langsung dalam tugas ini menjunjung kasih atas tunjuk ajar Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah dan Pemangku Raja Pahang, Tengku Hassanah Ibrahim Alam Shah Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah.

"Terima kasih juga atas kepimpinan Menteri Besar Pahang,



SALLEHUDDIN ISHAK

Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail, sokongan semua Ahli Mesyuarat Kerajaan Pahang serta semua Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Pahang," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Sallehuddin berkata, penghargaan tinggi diberikan atas kerja keras dan kerjasama petugas barisan hadapan, ketua jabatan, warga jabatan negeri, persekutuan dan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT).

"Paling penting penghargaan sewajarnya kepada semua rakyat Pahang yang memberikan sepenuh kerjasama dalam membendung penularan Covid-19 di negeri ini," katanya.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI



KHAIRY dan Wang Zhigang bertukar dokumen perjanjian pembangunan vaksin Covid-19 di antara Malaysia dan China semalam.

Vaksin: Malaysia-China meterai perjanjian

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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia dan China memeterai perjanjian bagi kerjasama dalam pembangunan vaksin Covid-19 yang selamat dan berkesan.

Perjanjian yang ditandatangani Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Khairy Jamaluddin dengan rakan sejawatnya dari China, Wang Zhigang secara maya itu akan memastikan Malaysia diberi keutamaan mendapatkan vaksin yang dibangunkan republik itu.

Dalam ciapan Twitternya, Khairy berkata, perjanjian itu

turut membincangkan pembangunan satu pasport kesihatan digital yang tertera maklumat warganegara yang telah divaksin bagi memudahkan kemasukan perjalanan antara kedua-dua negara.

Dalam pada itu, menerusi kenyataan bersama antara Kementerian Luar dan Kementerian Sains Teknologi dan Inovasi, perjanjian tersebut antara lain mengukuhkan soal perkongsian pengetahuan dan kepakaran selain keupayaan sains dan teknologi untuk mempercepatkan pembangunan vaksin di kedua-dua negara.

"Khairy dan Wang Zhigang

turut bersetuju meningkatkan kerjasama dalam menangani pandemik melalui diplomasi sains.

"Kedua-dua negara juga menyokong penyertaan sektor awam dan swasta termasuk universiti, institusi, masyarakat sivil dan organisasi dalam projek kerjasama itu," katanya di sini semalam.

Menurut kenyataan itu, perincian perjanjian berkenaan akan dipantau di bawah Jawatankuasa Tertinggi yang dipengerusikan oleh Menteri Luar, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein dan rakan sejawatnya, Wang Yi yang diper-

setujui pada 13 Oktober lalu dalam usaha mempromosikan kerjasama dan pendekatan berkesan dalam menangani cabaran pandemik Covid-19.

Kedua-dua negara seterusnya bersetuju menggalakkan dan menyokong syarikat-syarikat berkaitan untuk membangunkan kerjasama bersepadu dalam pembangunan dan penyediaan (R&D) serta pengeluaran vaksin Covid-19

Perjanjian itu kekal dalam tempoh lima tahun dan dilanjutkan secara automatik dalam tempoh setahun lagi sebagaimana dipersetujui oleh kedua-dua pihak

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Covid-19: Empat kematian, penambahan 660 kes baharu semalam

Kes positif melebihi 50,000

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PUTRAJAYA: Angka kes positif Covid-19 di seluruh negara kini melebihi 50,000 dengan pertambahan 660 kes baharu semalam menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan terkini sebanyak 50,390 kes.

Daripada jumlah kes harian semalam, sebanyak 387 kes atau 58.6 peratus direkodkan di Sabah manakala negeri-negeri di Lembah Klang mencatatkan sebanyak 173 kes iaitu penurunan 345 kes atau 66.6 peratus berbanding kelmarin.

Selain itu, sebanyak 77 kes atau 44.5 peratus daripada 173 kes positif di tiga negeri Lembah Klang adalah daripada kluster-kluster yang dikenal pasti.

Kluster Pusat Tahanan Sementara (PTS) dan penjara menyumbang sebanyak 171 kes atau 25.9 peratus melibatkan Kluster PTS Tawau (135 kes), Kluster GK Tawau (12 kes), Kluster Tembok (sembilan kes), Kluster Penjara Seberang Perai (enam kes), Kluster Rumah Merah dan Kluster Matambai (masing-masing empat kes) dan Kluster Penjara Sandakan (satu kes).

Terdapat pertambahan empat kes kematian berkaitan Covid-19 di Perak dan Sabah melibatkan



PEKERJA kilang Top Glove di Meru, Klang, Selangor mengambil bekalan makanan dari penghantaran di pintu pagar berikutan asrama pekerja syarikat itu dikenakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan (PKPD) sehingga 30 November ini. - UTUSAN/ZULFADHLI ZAKI

tiga wanita dan seorang lelaki berusia antara 59 hingga 80 tahun dengan pelbagai latar belakang penyakit menjadikan sebanyak 322 kes kematian terkini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Ab-

dullah berkata, terdapat lapan kluster baharu di dikenal pasti semalam dan satu daripadanya Kluster Sabaru di Lahad Datu, Sabah dengan kes indeks ialah saringan bergejala dimasukkan ke Hospital Lahad Datu.

Menurutnya, susulan itu sebanyak 87 lagi kes positif dikesan daripada saringan komuniti di kawasan setempat dan kesemuanya dimasukkan Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah, Sepagaya.

"Kluster Tomher pula di Ranau melibatkan 20 kes positif iaitu pekerja buruh binaan hasil saringan kumpulan berisiko tinggi dan telah dimasukkan ke Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah, Dewan Kompleks Sukan Ranau.

"Seterusnya, Kluster Garden di Tawau iaitu kes indeks saringan bergejala. Susulan itu, 10 lagi kontak rapat dikesan positif serta dimasukkan ke Hospital Tawau," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, Kluster Putrajaya-18 pula di Putrajaya, Petaling dan Sepang, Selangor dengan kes indeks saringan bergejala dan dimasukkan ke Hospital Sungai Buloh sekali gus mengesan lagi enam kes positif dalam kluster ini.

"Kluster-Murni pula di Cheras dan Kepong, Kuala Lumpur serta Petaling, Selangor melibatkan tujuh kes positif dengan kes indeks saringan bergejala dan kesemuanya dimasukkan ke Hospital Sungai Buloh.

"Bagi Kluster Seri Pasir dikenal pasti di Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang membabitkan 11 kes positif iaitu kes indeks hasil saringan bergejala dan kesemuanya dimasukkan ke Hospital Pulau Pinang," katanya.

Tapak bina Damnlela ditutup, tidak laksana Temco

PUTRAJAYA: Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan Secara Pentadbiran (Temco) tidak dilaksanakan di tapak bina Damnlela, Kuala Lumpur walaupun berlaku peningkatan kes Covid-19 di kawasan itu melibatkan pekerja warga asing.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob (**gambar**) berkata, ini kerana kawasan tapak pembinaan itu telah ditutup dan kesemua pekerja melakukan ujian saringan Covid-19 melibatkan 3,070 saringan.

Menurut beliau, walaupun peningkatan kes turut berlaku di Lembah Klang ketika ini, namun kerajaan tidak ada perancangan untuk melaksanakan Temco di ketiga-tiga negeri ini, namun hanya dilaksanakan



berdasarkan lokaliti tertentu.

Jelas beliau, Kementerian Sumber Manusia akan membentangkan secara terperinci kepada Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) pada Jumaat ini berhubung keperluan pelaksanaan saringan untuk kesemua 1.7 juta warga asing di negara ini.

"Ini termasuk soal kos bayaran ujian saringan yang ditanggung sama ada oleh majikan atau pekerja itu sendiri selain isu kemampuan makmal untuk melaksanakan ujian saringan itu.

"Ataupun kita hanya mengarahkan industri-industri yang ada banyak pekerja asing seperti di Lembah Klang, Negeri Sembilan dan Pulau Pinang atau pekerja asing dipakaikan gelang bagi mengawal pergerakan mereka," katanya di sini semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Ismail Sabri berkata, kawalan sempadan negara tidak 'lumpuh' malah diperketatkan walaupun terdapat dalam kalangan kakitangan Jabatan Imigresen yang didapati melanggar undang-undang.

Temco di dua kawasan Ipoh, Sandakan

PUTRAJAYA: Berikutan peningkatan kes Covid-19 di Zon B dan Zon C Taman Meru 2C Ipoh, Perak, kerajaan memutuskan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan Secara Pentadbiran (Temco) dilaksanakan di kawasan itu bermula Jumaat hingga 3 Disember ini.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, sebanyak 938 saringan dilaksanakan dan 76 kes positif direkodkan di kedua-dua lokaliti itu.

Beliau berkata, perintah Temco itu bagi membolehkan pengesanan kes aktif dapat dilakukan dengan berkesan dan menyeluruh melibatkan 2,288 penduduk dan 572 rumah.

Pada masa sama, kata beliau, perintah Temco dilaksanakan di Kamoung Nahaba dan Kampung

Tegudon, Kota Belud, Sabah bagi tempoh sama selepas 36 kes positif direkodkan di situ.

"Pelaksanaan Temco itu melibatkan sebanyak 1,740 penduduk di kedua-dua lokaliti," katanya di sini semalam.

Ismail Sabri berkata, Temco di Penjara Seberang Perai dan Kuarters Perumahan Penjara Seberang Perai Pulau Pinang dilanjutkan sehingga 2 Disember ini berikutan masih terdapat 75 ujian saringan dalam kalangan banduan, staf dan keluarga yang menunggu keputusan.

Kata beliau, Temco di Pusat Tahanan Sementara (PTS) Tawau, Penjara Sandakan dan Kuarters Penjara Taman Wira, Sandakan dilanjutkan dalam tempoh sama ekoran terdapat 141 kes aktif manakala 203 sampel saringan lagi masih menunggu keputusan.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION



Construction workers leaving work in Kuala Lumpur recently. PIC BY FATHIL ASRI

SINGAPORE MEASURE

FORTNIGHTLY TEST FOR FOREIGN WORKERS?

Govt to talk to construction sector about having regular Covid-19 tests, says Fadillah

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THE government is considering emulating the move by Singapore to have foreign construction workers undergo Covid-19 swab tests every two weeks.

Senior Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusoff said this was among the measures being considered by the Works Ministry to strengthen the standard operating procedures (SOP) and reduce the transmission of the virus at construction sites, as well as quarters and dorms housing migrant construction workers.

"In Singapore, all foreign workers (in the construction sector) must undergo (Covid-19) swab tests once every two weeks.

"Together with the Housing

and Local Government Ministry, we will conduct engagement sessions with players in the construction sector as well as associations representing contractors before making any decision.

"We will try to conduct the engagements virtually by next week after getting confirmation from all parties involved," he said here yesterday.

He said the ministry was aware that the proposal would increase the operating cost of construction companies.

"We understand that the proposal will result in higher operating costs and the cost of doing business for contractors.

"But contractors will see even more losses if cases are detected at their construction sites due to a lack of preventive measures.

"The ministry will discuss the matter with the Human Resources Ministry on whether the Social Security Organisation can fund part of the cost of swab tests if the proposal is implemented."

Fadillah was asked to comment on the rise in Covid-19 cases among construction workers.

"We are aware of the rise in cases at construction sites.

"We are looking into ways to

mitigate the problem.

"I am glad to note that some major construction companies have taken measures by isolating affected foreign construction workers at hotels and facilities gazetted by the government.

"The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) will continue to conduct inspections to ensure all parties in the construction sector comply with the SOP."

Concerns about virus transmission at construction sites arose when the Health Ministry detected the Damanlela construction site cluster on Nov 7.

The cluster has been the highest contributor of new Covid-19 cases in the Klang Valley since Sunday. Up to Monday, 1,132 cases have been linked to the cluster.

The emergence of the cluster has compelled the CIDB to urge all principal contractors to ensure that construction workers undergo Covid-19 swab tests three days before entering construction sites.

CIDB had said that checks with the Health Ministry found that the rise in Covid-19 cases linked to construction sites was due to workers under subcontractors moving from one construction site to another once a project is done.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

PREVENTING A FOURTH WAVE

KING CONSENTS TO BATU SAPI EMERGENCY

Al-Sultan Abdullah concerned about safety of people during pandemic

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YANG di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah has consented to declare a state of emergency in the Batu Sapi parliamentary constituency in Sabah, which is supposed to have a by-election on Dec 5.

Comptroller of the Royal Household Datuk Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin said the king also consented to the postponement of the by-election, and for a new date to be set to prevent a fourth wave of Covid-19 in the country.

The decree followed the advice of Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who conveyed the decision reached by the cabinet.

The king reached the decision following an hour-long audience, which was granted to Muhyiddin at Istana Negara at 4pm yesterday, and following briefings given by four high-ranking govern-

ment officials regarding the same matter.

"After scrutinising the explanation by the prime minister, and briefings presented by Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, Attorney-General Tan Sri Idrus Harun, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah and Election Commission chairman Datuk Abdul Ghani Salleh, Al-Sultan Abdullah was satisfied that there is a need to proclaim an emergency based on Article (1) Clause 150 of the Federal Constitution to allow an ordinance to be gazetted under Article (2B) Clause 150 to cancel the date set for the P.185 Batu Sapi by-election in Sabah.

"With the proclamation, all proceedings that have begun for the running of the P.185 Batu Sapi by-election will discontinue to prevent any possibility of a fourth wave of Covid-19 infections.

"A new date for this by-election will be determined," Fadil said in a statement issued by Istana Negara yesterday.

He said Al-Sultan Abdullah was concerned about the safety of the people following the emergence of new clusters and daily new cases in the country since the Sabah election on Sept 26.

"In this regard, His Majesty thinks it is appropriate that this by-election be cancelled and postponed for the safety and

wellbeing of the people and the country.

"The consent decreed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was made after taking into consideration the lessons and experiences from the outcome of the 16th Sabah election, which is the main factor that contributed to the third wave of the pandemic in the country."

Fadil said the Health Ministry recorded a 148.4 per cent increase, or 3,842 cases, on Oct 10, two weeks after the state election, and that daily infections continued to rise by 193.7 per cent, or 11,285 cumulative cases, on Oct 24.

He said Al-Sultan Abdullah also took into account the number of registered voters who lived outside the Batu Sapi constituency, and who were expected to conduct interstate or interdistrict trips to vote.

"Based on Election Commission data, there are 32,962 registered voters in P.185 Batu Sapi, and 3,170 of them have addresses outside of the seat, including in the peninsula and Sarawak.

"Besides that, 16,000 have general addresses without any house number, and this poses a challenge for postal voting."

He said following the surge in Covid-19 cases, the king urged the people to be disciplined in helping the government and authorities fight the pandemic.

He said the king conveyed his



Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah with Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin at Istana Negara yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF ISTANA NEGARA

deepest condolences to the families of Covid-19 patients who had died, and urged them to be strong in the face of adversity.

The king, he said, expressed his highest appreciation and respect to frontliners, whom he described as "heroes and heroines",

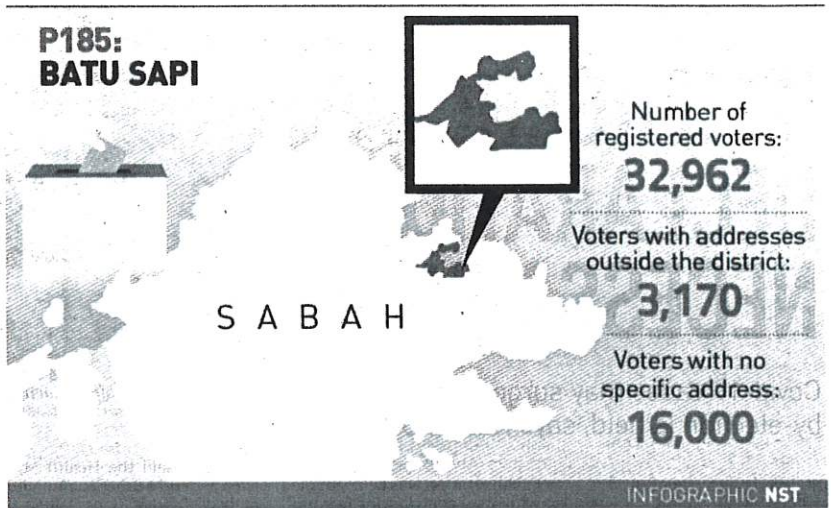
for their courage and sacrifices during the pandemic.

"Al-Sultan Abdullah urged the people to join His Majesty in prayer so that we can overcome and see an end to Covid-19," he said. **Additional reporting by Avila Geraldine and Olivia Miwil**

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION



Lawyer: It's the best solution to protect people

KUALA LUMPUR: The declaration of emergency in Batu Sapi is the best solution to deal with political matters to safeguard the people under the present socio-economic climate.

Lawyer Haniff Khatri Abdulla, who had criticised the cabinet's bid for a blanket declaration of emergency last month, said the decree was the most constitutional and legal option on the table to resolve the issue.

He said the other option was going through Dewan Rakyat to amend Article 54 of the Constitution on elections to allow a requirement to adjourn or delay any polls in the event of an emergency or urgent situation, such as Covid-19.

"But this cannot be done unless it is tabled in Dewan Rakyat and gets a two-thirds majority. It also may not materialise due to the political conditions, so this is the best choice."

Haniff said it was vital that everyone respected the decision by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and accept it as not only constitutional and legal, but also right and moral.

He said the same could be applied for the Gerik by-election after taking into account Covid-19 cases and statistics at the time.

A similar proclamation for Gerik would then be justifiable, he said.

"But that is premature because there are 60 days for the polls in Gerik, and Parliament does have time to table amendments to Article 54 of the Constitution."

He said the king's decree would return the focus back on the nation, people and the economic problems instead of politics.

Under Article 54(1) of the Constitution, if a casual vacancy arises



Health Ministry personnel getting ready to test construction workers for Covid-19 in Penampang, Sabah, yesterday. PIC BY MALAI ROSMAH TUAH

Sabah leaders laud emergency declaration

KOTA KINABALU: Declaring an emergency in Batu Sapi is a wise decision as the Covid-19 pandemic in Sabah remains a threat to people's wellbeing, said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor.

Hajiji said the need to stop the spread of the coronavirus and protect the people was crucial.

He said the state government supported Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah's decision to declare an emergency in the Batu Sapi parliamentary constituency, which allows the postponement of the Dec 5 by-election.

"The state government via the Sabah Covid-19 Disaster Management Committee is working with the authorities to contain the pandemic."

Sabah Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) deputy chairman Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun said the emergency was the best decision considering the situation the state was in.

He said a lesson was learnt from the 16th state election,

which saw a rise in the number of cases in Sabah.

With the by-election being postponed, he said, everyone should shift their focus to fighting Covid-19, adding that politics could wait.

Parti Solidariti Tanah Airku president Datuk Seri Dr Jeffrey Kitingan said it was a relief the by-election had been called off.

"It was the right decision by the king upon the advice of the prime minister (Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin). We learnt our lesson the hard way after the Sabah election."

Former chief minister and Parti Warisan Sabah president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal also welcomed the king's decision, adding that the people's health should not be put at risk for the sake of carrying out democratic rules.

Shafie agreed that priority should be on the need to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Warisan hopes the government can find a way to ensure a date can be set to inform the people when the emergency ends."

in the Dewan Rakyat, it shall be filled within 60 days from the date on which it is established by the Election Commission that there is a vacancy.

Haniff, however, said that there was a difference between the declaration yesterday and what was sought last month.

He said the prime minister's bid to seek for the king to declare an emergency due to a health emergency earlier lacked justification and basis.

"But here the declaration is only on one part of the affected area, which would be even more severely affected if the constitutional requirement under Article 54 is carried out."

"That is a very big difference and there is nothing contradictory to what the king has done today as opposed to October, and that's very important to be understood."

Medical lecturer Dr Safiya Amaran, a public health specialist at Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, said a face-to-face election could worsen Sabah's situation,

which the ministry had a few weeks ago declared as a state in crisis.

"It was a good decision to postpone this election, but it is the campaigning and not the balloting that could present the main risks."

"Unless we can introduce new rules to only allow online campaigns and do away with assemblies and door-to-door visits, the polls can't go on."

"But this can also be contested by politicians as an infringement on democratic rights as the Internet coverage in Sabah is poor and not all can view their campaign this way."

Dr Safiya wondered if the same decree would be called for seats that fell vacant in the peninsula during the pandemic.

"It is important to know what a state of emergency constitutes, in this case."

"We also need to know how it affects the people, as an elected representative is crucial to convey people's problems and seek solutions."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

KING'S MOVE

'EMERGENCY DECLARATION NECESSARY'

Covid-19 cases may surge again if by-election is held, says Health D-G

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TAN Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yesterday described the declaration of emergency in Batu Sapi, Sabah, as necessary to prevent a spike in Covid-19 cases should the by-election be held as scheduled.

The Health director-general welcomed Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah's decision to declare the localised state of emergency in Batu Sapi.

He said the number of cases had surged nationwide since the

Sabah election was held, coupled with other contributing factors.

"We are worried (about a possible surge in cases) if by-elections or a general election is held. Hence, it has to be avoided."

On facilitating the governance and operations at hospitals, as well as at quarantine and low-risk centres in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, Dr Noor Hisham announced the establishment of a Central Region Covid-19 Unified Command Centre.

He said Selangor Health director Datuk Dr Sha'ari Ngadiman would head the command centre, with Sungai Buloh Hospital emergency physician Dr Sarah Shaikh Abdul Karim as the



Health Ministry staff conducting a Covid-19 test on a worker at a construction site in Penampang, Sabah, yesterday. PIC BY MALAI ROSMAH TUAH

deputy.

He also said the Health Ministry added 14 times the number of beds in the Klang Valley to cater to the rising number of Covid-19 patients.

The ministry, he said, used only the Sungai Buloh Hospital and the Kuala Lumpur Hospital to house Covid-19 patients.

"Until today (yesterday), the number of beds for Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya has increased from 345 to 4,739."

On Covid-19 clusters, Dr Noor Hisham said eight new clusters were detected.

They are the Sabaru cluster, Tomher cluster and Garden cluster in Sabah; the Putra-18 cluster in Putrajaya, Petaling and Sepang in Selangor; the Murni cluster in Kepong and Petaling; the Seri

Pasir cluster in Penang; the Besi Demak cluster in Sarawak; and the Parit Kassin cluster in Tangkak, Johor and Melaka Tengah.

On case updates, Dr Noor Hisham said Malaysia logged a significantly lower number of new cases at 660 yesterday compared with Tuesday's 1,210 cases.

This raised Malaysia's cumulative tally of infections to 50,390, with 12,814 active cases.

He said the Klang Valley saw a clear decline in new cases with only 173, compared with 518 on Tuesday, with 77 cases from existing clusters.

Selangor recorded 139 cases, Kuala Lumpur recorded 29 new cases and Putrajaya, one.

Sabah recorded 387 new cases yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham also said 171 new cases were linked to temporary detainment centres and prison clusters.

From yesterday's new cases, Dr Noor Hisham said four were imported, involving two Malaysians and two foreigners, who arrived from Turkey (two), India (one) and Saudi Arabia (one).

Dr Noor Hisham said 103 patients were being treated at Intensive Care Units, with 41 requiring ventilator support.

Up to noon yesterday, Dr Noor Hisham said four deaths were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre, raising the nationwide death toll to 322 (0.6 per cent).

Two deaths were in Sabah and two in Perak, involving three Malaysians and a foreigner.

2 WEEKS

EMCO for 4 more areas in Perak, Sabah

KUALA LUMPUR: An additional two weeks of Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) will be imposed at three locations on the east coast of Sabah starting tomorrow to Dec 3.

Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the EMCO imposed at the Tawau Temporary Detention Centre, as well as the Sandakan Prison and Taman Wira Prison Quarters, was scheduled to end today.

He said the decision to extend the EMCO was based on the Health Ministry's advice.

On Tuesday, 137 active cases were recorded with 924 samples still awaiting results at the Tawau Temporary Detention Centre. The Sandakan Prison and Taman Wira Prison Quarters recorded 141 active cases and 203 samples are still awaiting results.

"These localities still record high active cases.

"Therefore, following the ad-

vice of the Health Ministry, the National Security Council special meeting today (yesterday) decided to extend the EMCO for another 14 days," he said at the non-health press conference here yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said the government had also agreed to enforce EMCO at the Seberang Prai prison and prison quarters in Penang for another two weeks beginning today to Dec 2.

He said the decision was made following the Health Ministry's advice as 73 Covid-19 screening tests on prison staff and families were yet to be released.

He said the cumulative positive cases in the areas was 557 cases. The EMCO at the prison and its quarters was scheduled to end yesterday.

Two localities in Ipoh will be placed under the EMCO for two weeks starting today, he said.

The areas are Zon B and Zon C of Taman Meru 2C in Ipoh, which

involve 2,288 residents and 572 houses.

Another two localities in Sabah, Kg Nahaba and Kg Tegudon, will also be placed under the EMCO for the next two weeks based on the Health Ministry's risk assessment report.

Ismail Sabri said the government might conduct Covid-19 screening on all foreign workers nationwide, due to the surge in such cases involving them lately.

"We have 1.7 million foreign workers nationwide and so far, the Social Security Organisation (Socso) has agreed to bear half the swab tests' cost for them."

He said Socso would pay only RM150 per person, but the RT-PCR test costs around RM300 to RM350 per person.

Besides that, he said the government would also have to study the number of testing labs available and the duration required to process the swab test samples.

Ismail Sabri said the Human



Foreign workers waiting to be sent to a quarantine centre in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. PIC BY FATHIL ASRI

Resources Ministry had also been asked to study plans to implement the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act 446 (Amendment) 2019.

"We are also discussing whether we need to make it compulsory for all foreign workers to wear wristbands to identify them in the community. Details will be presented in the special National Security Council meeting this

Friday," he said.

Commenting on the arrests of 25 officers from the Immigration Department for allegedly abusing the department's entry and exit stamp to bring in illegal immigrants, he said they would be replaced.

He also clarified that Malaysian couples were allowed to enter the country, but they must apply for a MyTravel pass from the Immigration Department.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NATION

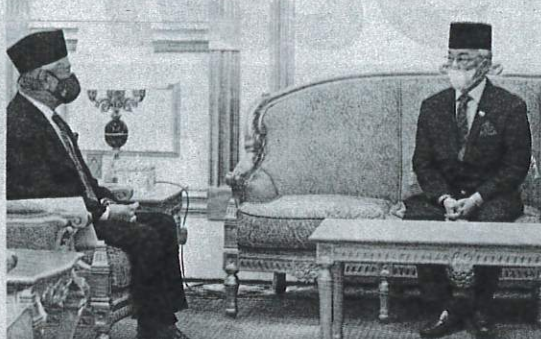
King grants govt's request for declaration

PETALING JAYA: The King has agreed to a declaration of a Proclamation of Emergency to cancel and postpone the Batu Sapi by-election in Sabah that was scheduled on Dec 5, following a meeting with the Prime Minister.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah met Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin for an hour at 4pm yesterday, according to a statement issued by Comptroller of the Royal Household of Istana Negara Datuk Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin.

"Muhyiddin presented his advice to the King following a decision made at a Cabinet meeting.

"After listening to explanations from the Prime Minister and after being satisfied with briefings from Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Zuki Ali, Attorney General Tan Sri Idrus Harun, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah and Election Commission (EC) chairman Datuk Abdul Ghani Salleh, His Majesty saw the need for a Declaration for a Proclamation of Emergency under Article 150(1) of



Time of urgency: Muhyiddin meeting the King at the palace. (Photo courtesy of Istana Negara)

the Federal Constitution to cancel the Batu Sapi by-election," Ahmad Fadil said.

The proclamation also means any proceedings concerning the Batu Sapi by-election will be discontinued to prevent another wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The by-election will be held on another date.

Ahmad Fadil said the King was concerned about public safety following the sharp rise in cases after the Sabah state election on Sept 26.

"His Majesty believes it is necessary to cancel the by-election and

postpone it to another date," he said. Ahmad Fadil said the King also took into account the number of registered voters living outside Batu Sapi who would have to return to cast their votes.

According to the EC, there are 32,962 voters in Batu Sapi, 3,170 of whom live outside the constituency, including in Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia.

It is also estimated that 16,000 voters do not have complete addresses, which would have made postal voting difficult.

The King also advised the people to continue being vigilant and play a role in helping the government curb the spread of the disease.

He also expressed gratitude and appreciation for the frontliners and extended his condolences to those who lost loved ones to Covid-19.

"His Majesty also called on all Malaysians to stand united to fight the pandemic," Ahmad Fadil said.

The Batu Sapi by-election was called following the death of its MP Datuk Liew Vui Keong on Oct 2 due to a lung infection.

'Postponing by-election the right thing to do'

KOTA KINABALU: The King's decision to declare an emergency in Batu Sapi, Sandakan – thus postponing the by-election scheduled on Dec 5 – is the right action to curb the spread of Covid-19, say state leaders.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor described it as a wise decision considering the fact that Covid-19 continues to threaten the people's health and well-being in Sabah.

"The need to stop the spread and protect the health of the people is of paramount importance," he said.

Hajiji said the Sabah state government, through its Covid-19 Disaster Management Committee, was working relentlessly with the authorities to contain the pandemic.

Parti Warisan Sabah president Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal said: "The King has used his wisdom. The lives of people cannot be put at risk in a bid to exercise democracy.

"We hope a suitable date will be announced later as all have a right to choose their leaders," he said.

Sandakan DAP MP Vivian Wong hoped the by-election would only be held after the situation improved.

Retired civil servant Thomas Lau, 71, said: "This is the best decision ever. It will be a huge relief to all frontliners who have been working non-stop since the pandemic started and also for the people who have been affected," he said, adding that as elections were held every five years, this postponement would not affect the government much.

"If the situation improves, we can all enjoy whatever elections we want," Lau said.

Civil servant Siddek Kassim, 62, said the decision was appropriate.

"Batu Sapi is also considered a red zone so postponing the by-election would only do good for the health and safety of the people," he said.

The Election Commission declared Nov 23 as nomination day, Dec 1 for early polls and Dec 5 for the Batu Sapi by-election following the death of its MP Datuk Liew Vui Keong of Parti Warisan Sabah on Oct 2.

Not willing to take risks again

Cabinet takes into account Covid-19 spread after Sabah state polls

PETALING JAYA: The Cabinet has advised the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to declare an emergency in Batu Sapi after taking into account the consequences of the Sabah state election that resulted in a third wave of Covid-19 infections in the community.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the Cabinet had in a meeting on Nov 13 discussed in detail the possible effects of the Batu Sapi by-election that would have to be held while the Covid-19 pandemic was still spreading in Sabah.

"In making this consideration, the Cabinet took into account the effects of Covid-19 transmissions in Sabah following the Sabah state election held in September," he said

in a live broadcast yesterday to explain the Cabinet decision to advise the King to declare an emergency in Batu Sapi.

Muhyiddin said that although the Election Commission had set tight standard operating procedure (SOP) for the election, compliance with them was very weak, making the epidemic hard to control.

He said that on nomination day of the Sabah state election on Sept 12, the number of cumulative cases in the state was 808, increasing by 91.5% to 1,547 cases on polling day on Sept 26.

Four weeks later on Oct 24, Sabah had recorded 11,285 cumulative cases, becoming the first state in the country to record more than 10,000 cases.

As of yesterday, Sabah recorded 24,269 cases and 181 deaths.

After meeting with Muhyiddin, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah had agreed to declare a state of emergency in Batu Sapi to cancel the by-election that was scheduled there for Dec 5.

Batu Sapi, part of the Sandakan municipality, is among Covid-19 hot spots in Sabah.

Muhyiddin also said the Election Commission faced constraints in getting election workers as they were concerned about getting infected with the virus while on duty.

He said that as of Nov 6, the commission had only succeeded in appointing 143 election officials, which is only 17.1% of the 837

workers needed for the by-election.

He added that although Sabah was under the conditional movement control order (MCO), the district and state borders travel restrictions could not be imposed on those voting in Batu Sapi as it was their constitutional right to do so.

Muhyiddin assured that the by-election would be held when the pandemic was over.

He said the Cabinet had sought the views of the Attorney General on the best way in terms of legislation and constitution to postpone the by-election to another date.

The Federal Constitution says that any vacancy in Parliament must be filled within 60 days unless Parliament is to be dissolved within two years.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NATION

M'sia and China sign deal on vaccine joint effort

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia and China have signed a deal to boost cooperation in Covid-19 vaccine development and accessibility.

The agreement, signed virtually by Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin and Chinese counterpart Wang Zhigang, aims to forge greater collaboration to combat the pandemic.

The agreement will be operationalised under the supervision of a high-level committee that will be chaired by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi as agreed upon on Oct 13 this year.

"Great step forward for Malaysia-China relations in the post-pandemic era. Vaccine priority, along with other bilateral economic, social

and cultural matters, is part of a wider overarching framework under the high-level committee co-chaired by Foreign Minister Wang Yi and me," Hishammuddin said in a tweet.

Khairy, who tweeted about the signing of the agreement, also said he discussed a mutually accepted blockchain-enabled digital health passport to facilitate a travel corridor for vaccinated citizens from both countries.

Khairy and Wang agreed to increase collaboration in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic through science diplomacy, said the Foreign Affairs Ministry as well as the Science Technology and Innovation Ministry in a joint statement.

"The agreement provides for Malaysia to be given priority access to Covid-19 vaccines

developed by China, knowledge sharing and expertise as well as facilitate scientific and technological capabilities to advance vaccine development in both countries.

"Both countries will also support the participation of their public and private sectors including universities, institutions, societies and organisations in joint collaborative projects," they said in a joint statement yesterday. Both governments agreed to support and encourage their enterprises to establish cooperation in vaccine research and development, as well as supply, added the statement.

The agreement was to remain in force for an initial five-year period and would be automatically extended for another one year each, at a time upon mutual agreement by both parties.

Allowance only for those involved in Covid-19 duties, says ministry

PETALING JAYA: The special Covid-19 allowance for frontliners are only for healthcare officers who are involved in Covid-19 duties, says Health Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min.

He said the RM600 allowance was not meant for healthcare personnel who were not involved in handling Covid-19 patients.

"The allowance is made on a targeted basis. It is not meant for all 252,765 permanent officers and more than 40,000 contract officers currently serving in the Health Ministry.

"Not all officers are instructed to perform duties related to Covid-19. Most of them still do their non-Covid-19 duties as usual in health facilities that are not specified for Covid-19.

"Furthermore, this directive is also not continuous in nature. Officers who no longer perform the duties or are later directed to work at non-Covid-19 facilities are no longer eligible," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said feedback from Penang Hospital showed that all healthcare officers who performed Covid-19 duties were duly paid the allowance.

"The total amount of allowance paid from March to September 2020 was RM3,076,300.

"The hospital also held a series of engagement (sessions) with officers to explain the allowance and the need for officers to be directly involved in the duties related to Covid-19 at the hospital.

"This engagement was also made to ensure all eligible officers received the allowance," he said.

Dr Chen was responding to *The Star's* article published on Nov 7 that not every staff member of Penang Hospital was getting the RM600 special allowance.

Some staff members in the article also expressed hope for the allowance to be expanded to include frontline hospital staff who don't deal directly with Covid-19 patients but still face patients directly (<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/11/07/not-all-penang-hospital-staff-receive-allowance>).

"Regarding the healthcare officers who are not directly involved such as medical officers and the nurse 'Kak Anum' who was interviewed by the journalist, they only expressed hope that they would also be considered to be paid the allowance.

"In this case, the government through the Health Ministry appreciates their concerns, sacrifices and contribution towards delivering excellent services to all patients," he said.

He added that the Health Ministry was collaborating with takaful providers for the MOH-myHeroes fund amounting to RM5mil to be given to healthcare officers infected with Covid-19 while on duty.

An allocation of RM1bil, he added, was set aside for the supply of preventive and safety equipment such as face masks, hand sanitisers and personal protective equipment.

"Apart from that, the government also proposed through Budget 2021 a special assistance payment of RM600 to be given to all Grade 56 officers and below in appreciation of their contribution and commitment," he said.

'Low infectivity still far off'

Experts: Levels below 0.5 possible if everybody cooperates

By CLARISSA CHUNG
clarissachung@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: It will be weeks or even months before the Health Ministry's target of an infectivity level of below 0.5 can be achieved, health experts opined.

The goal to reduce the infectivity rate to below 0.5 is possible with the proper public health measures, said Universiti Putra Malaysia medical epidemiologist Assoc Prof Dr Malina Osman.

"This can be done if all individuals comply with the strict rules and standard operating procedure (SOP)," she said, adding that this is a good target to be aiming for.

She said the time taken to achieve that target depends on the public.

"The higher level of SOP compliance, the better our chances. If all of us are able to commit and contribute to this effort in a dedicated manner, we can achieve the target within two to four weeks from now.

"We have no other choice but comply with the SOP for now," she said.

Universiti Malaya virologist Prof Dr Sazaly Abu Bakar said it would be a "long way to go" before Malaysia sees its R value dip below 0.5.

"My guess is that it will take another four or even up to eight weeks before we can achieve the target.

"We are most likely going to see this situation last into the New Year, especially as the holidays are coming," he said, as major festivals such as Deepavali and Christmas will likely lead to more people congregating.

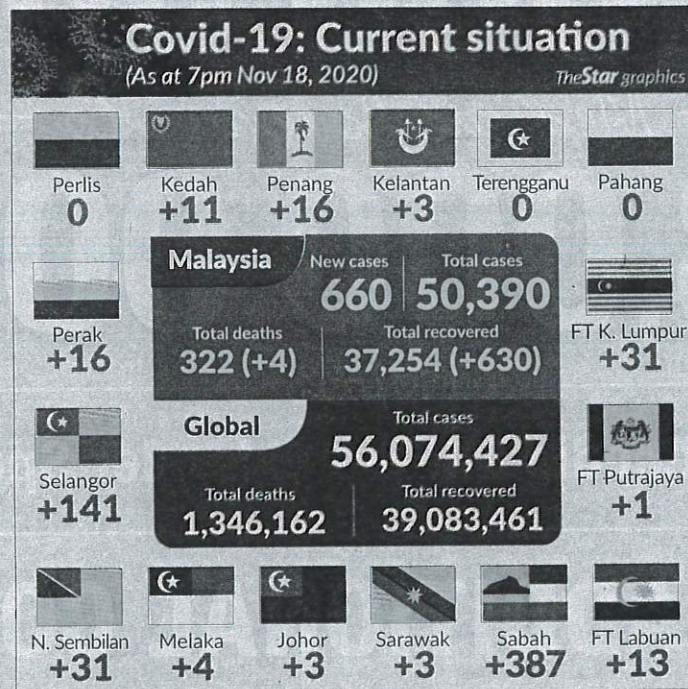
"Theoretically, getting the R value below 0.5 is achievable, if everyone cooperates - the key word here being everyone.

"That means we also need to resolve our current major headache which is workplace infections, including factories and construction sites," he said.

He said there must be stronger emphasis for firms hiring such workers to ensure proper physical distancing and that they are free of Covid-19.

"The message that needs to get across to employers is that they must protect their own businesses by making sure all their workers are free of Covid-19," he said.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor



Hisham Abdullah said the ministry is targeting an infectivity rate of below 0.5 through public health intervention activities.

He earlier said the country's R value stood at 2.2 at the beginning of the third wave, and that the conditional movement control order had brought the value down to 1.5.

In a recent tweet, he said that as of Nov 17, the daily estimated R value for Malaysia is at 1.06.

An indicator of how fast the virus is spreading, the R value shows the average number of

people who contracted Covid-19 from an infectious person.

An Rt value - the effective reproduction number - of less than 1.0 is a good sign.

While R0, or R-naught, is the initial reproduction number of the virus at the beginning of the pandemic, Rt refers to the reproduction number at a particular point in time.

From Nov 13 to 17 consecutively, Malaysia recorded four-figure daily cases.

Yesterday, the country saw a downturn in the trend, with only 660 new cases recorded.

Klang Valley hospital beds for Covid-19 increased

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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PUTRAJAYA: Hospital beds for Covid-19 in the Klang Valley were significantly increased after the recent surge in new cases, says Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said the current capacity in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya stood at 4,739 beds.

Dr Noor Hisham said the total included an increase of 630 beds in

Hospital Sungai Buloh and 831 beds in Hospital Kuala Lumpur.

The Cheras Rehabilitation Hospital has been converted into a Covid-19 hybrid hospital, adding 230 beds to the capacity.

In addition, eight blocks of the Health Ministry's training institute in Sungai Buloh provided another 2,400 beds, while the National Leprosy Control Centre was turned into a Covid-19 quarantine and low-risk treatment centre with 648 beds.

"All these facilities have increased the number of beds by almost 14

times from 345 beds on Oct 1 to 4,739 beds as of now," he said during yesterday's Covid-19 press briefing.

Earlier, Dr Noor Hisham said there was a reduction to 660 new Covid-19 cases yesterday, after five consecutive days of four-digit cases.

Sabah has the highest with 387 new infections or 58.6% of the total cases, followed by 139 cases in Selangor, 29 in Kuala Lumpur and one in Putrajaya.

Dr Noor Hisham also said there were four Covid-19 deaths, with two

cases in Sabah and another two in Perak, bringing the death toll to 322.

A total of 630 patients have been discharged while the number of active cases stood at 12,814.

There were eight new clusters detected, with three in Sabah.

He also said three previous clusters - Kencana, Bah Sintok and Seri Anggerik - had ended with no new cases after 28 straight days.

On another matter, Dr Noor Hisham said the country's efforts in dealing with polio remains steadfast despite the pandemic.

"The administration of polio vaccine for children under the National Immunisation Programme will continue at the ministry's health facilities throughout the MCO but with strict adherence to the standard operating procedures.

Dr Noor Hisham said that since the Philippines reported a polio outbreak in September 2019, detection activities have been stepped up.

He added that due to the ministry's active polio immunisation campaigns, the last confirmed polio case was reported on March 10.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NATION

Music therapy helps those under quarantine to de-stress

By STEPHANIE LEE
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KOTA KINABALU: Casual onlookers could be forgiven if they think the Penampang Cultural Hall is now being used as an entertainment centre.

On some days, upbeat music and karaoke singing could be heard in the vicinity of the cultural hall, which is being used as a low-risk Covid-19 quarantine and treatment centre.

Those who don't know any better

may also assume a wedding party is taking place inside, as the hall is a popular venue for weddings.

However, the music is part and parcel of a different kind of therapy, one that is designed to boost the morale of the people quarantined there, along with their caregivers and frontliners.

According to an officer at the Penampang Health Clinic, such programmes are part of the Health Department's Mental Health PsychoSocial Support (MHPSS) to allow patients to de-stress.

He said such programmes also allowed the frontliners to have some fun amid the pandemic, which they have been battling non-stop since early this year.

The officer said every quarantine centre had its own MHPSS programme, and the staples include singing, dancing, light exercises, as well as zumba dancing.

Some facilities that are less crowded also encouraged sports activities such as badminton.

A 20-year-old patient, who has stage one Covid-19, uploaded the

video on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ell.elly.752/), and said such programmes were conducted once or twice a week.

"My husband and I were admitted to the quarantine centre on Nov 16, but I was told by those who have been here longer that these activities are held often to help patients de-stress," she said.

She said the activities helped the patients to feel happier and better.

"As you know, the stress of being under quarantine is different, we can't see our families, and for those

with small children, they worry every second how their kids are.

"I hope they enjoyed the fun as much as we did," said the patient who goes by the name "Nur Aleysha" on Facebook.

In the video, frontliners fully clad in personal protective equipment can be seen singing their hearts out and dancing, while patients were also dancing with their face masks, with proper distancing observed.

Sabah has 24 quarantine centres with 1,363 people in them as of this week.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Down to three digits, 660 cases reported

➤ Covid-19 total tops 50,000, with 630 recoveries and four deaths

PETALING JAYA: After recording four-digit cases daily since Nov 13, Covid-19 cases in the country have dropped to three digits once again, with 660 reported yesterday.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the

latest development brings the total of Covid-19 cases in the country to 50,390, with active cases at 12,814.

In addition, 630 recoveries were recorded in the last 24 hours, he said. "Of the total new cases, 656 were local infections while four were imported, two from Turkey and one each from India and Saudi Arabia.

"The local infections involve cases in Sabah with 387 cases, Selangor (139), Negri Sembilan (31), Kuala Lumpur (29), Penang (16), Perak (16), Labuan (13), Kedah (11), Malacca (four), Sarawak (three), Johor (three), Kelantan (three) and Putrajaya (one)," he said during a

Covid-19 media briefing yesterday.

There were four fatalities yesterday, taking the death toll to 322.

The deaths involved two local women aged 76 and 80 in Perak, a 59-year-old local man and a 62-year-old foreign woman in Sabah.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) identified eight new Covid-19 clusters while three others have ended.

The three new clusters in Sabah were the Sabaru Cluster in Lahad Datu, Tomther Cluster in Ranau and the Garden Cluster in Tawau.

The other new clusters were Putra-18 (Putrajaya, Selangor), Murni (Kuala Lumpur, Selangor), Seri Pasir

(Penang), Besi Demak (Sarawak) and Parit Kassar (Johor, Malacca) clusters.

Meanwhile, the enhanced movement control order (EMCO) will be enforced at Zone B and Zone C of Taman Meru 2C in Ipoh, Perak, from Nov 20 to Dec 3.

Senior Minister (Security) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said two localities in Sabah, namely Kampung Nahaba and Kampung Tegudon in Kota Behud will also be placed under the EMCO for the same period.

However, EMCO will not be enforced at construction sites involving the Damanlela cluster in Kuala Lumpur.

Ismail Sabri said this was because the MoH had carried out screening on all foreign workers involved and the two construction sites had been closed.

"All Covid-19 positive workers have been warded in the hospital and close contacts are quarantined in hotels borne by the employer," he said.

From the total 3,128 construction workers screened, 1,346 positive cases were recorded.

Meanwhile, the two construction sites, Phase 2 of Pavilion Damansara Heights and PARC3 in Cheras have been closed.

Extra allowance only for those involved in fight against pandemic

KUALA LUMPUR: The special Covid-19 allowance for healthcare personnel is given only to those performing duties of fighting the pandemic, said Health Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min.

"The allowance is made on a targeted basis. It is not for all 252,765 permanent officers and the more than 40,000 contract officers currently serving in the ministry.

"This is because not all officers are instructed to perform duties related to Covid-19 and most of them are still performing their non-Covid-19 duties as usual in health facilities," he said in a statement yesterday in response to an

article published by a news portal.

Chen explained this directive is also not continuous in nature whereby any officer who no longer performs the duties or is later directed to work at non-Covid-19 facilities is no longer eligible for the allowance.

However, he said any healthcare officer who has not previously received the allowance will be eligible to receive it when instructed to perform the duties.

Based on feedback from Penang Hospital, all healthcare officers who have been instructed and are still performing duties related to Covid-19 are duly paid the allowance. The allowance

paid from March to September 2020 totalled RM3,076,300.

"In this regard, the hospital also held a series of engagements with officers to explain the allowance and the need for officers to be directly involved in the duties related to Covid-19 at the hospital.

"Not all officers are involved because the hospital also needs to ensure other services continue as usual while avoiding potential infection of the virus at the hospital. This engagement was also made to ensure all eligible officers receive the allowance," he said. - Bernama

'Work together for equitable access to vaccines'

KUALA LUMPUR: Asia-Pacific economies have been urged to come together to ensure equitable access to safe, effective and affordable vaccines for Covid-19 when they are made available.

Senior Minister (International Trade and Industry) Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said this was a key call to action from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministerial Meeting (AMM).

"We should regard Covid-19 vaccines as public goods that are critical to protect our health," he said.

At the same time, he added while the Covid-19 war is being fought Asia-Pacific economies should also not lose sight of other priorities.

"As much as we must be realistic and pragmatic in our response to the current situation, we must also strengthen solidarity to foster quality growth and enhance the resilience of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) countries to ensure a robust recovery," he added at the virtual AMM he chaired on Monday.

At the meeting, Apec economic ministers also reaffirmed their support for the World Trade Organisation, noting that the rules-based multilateral trading system is central to efforts in enhancing market predictability and business confidence.

Azmin described the Covid-19 pandemic as "possibly the harshest economic crisis of modern times".

"As the impact on the economy has been severe, Apec member economies must forge closer collaboration and find long-term sustainable solutions not just to deal with the current situation but also future contingencies that may affect us on a global scale," he said in a statement issued yesterday.

He added the AMM also underscored the importance of working closely to leverage latest cutting edge technologies and exploiting advances brought about by digital transformation to facilitate the reopening of economic activities, particularly for the benefit of micro, small and medium enterprises, women, youth and vulnerable groups. - Bernama



GETTING READY ... A health ministry official preparing beds at a quarantine and low-risk treatment centre at Kompleks Masyarakat Penyayang in George Town, Penang yesterday. - MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN