

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

# Jangkitan cecah angka tertinggi, 869 kes baharu

4 lagi kematian direkod, lima kluster baharu dikesan jangkiti 87 individu

Oleh Ilah Hafiz Abd Aziz dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman  
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**Putrajaya:** Angka jangkitan baharu COVID-19 melonjak kepada 869 kes, semalam, iaitu tertinggi pernah dicatatkan sejak penularan wabak berkenaan di negara ini.

Sebelum ini, angka harian tertinggi pernah dilaporkan ialah pada 6 Oktober lalu membabitkan 691 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata semua jangkitan baharu itu adalah penularan tempatan, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif mencecah 19,627 dengan 6,886 kes aktif.

"Sabah kekal mencatatkan bilangan tertinggi, iaitu 451 kes (51.9 peratus), manakala Lembah Klang pula 20.3 peratus.

"Selangor melaporkan 159 kes, diikuti Kuala Lumpur 15 dan Putrajaya dua," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, semalam.

Beliau berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan juga mengesan lima lagi kluster baharu COVID-19 yang sudah menjangkiti 87 individu, setakat ini.

Katanya, ia meliputi Kluster Teduh yang dikesan di daerah Lahad Datu, Sabah, membabitkan 11 kes positif.

"Kluster Menara yang sudah menjangkiti 33 individu pula



Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

membabitkan daerah Gombak, Petaling, Klang, Sepang dan Hulu Langat di Selangor; Lembah Pantai, Titiwangsa dan Cheras di Kuala Lumpur; Larut, Matang dan Selama di Perak; serta Putrajaya," katanya.

Seterusnya, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Kluster Keladi dikesan di daerah Klang, Selangor, dengan 26 kes positif, setakat ini.

"Kluster Sentral pula dikesan di Kepong, Cheras dan Titiwangsa, Kuala Lumpur, mencatatkan lima kes positif.

"Kluster Bah Bemban pula membabitkan daerah Dungun, Terengganu dan Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, dengan 12 kes positif.

"Kes indeks Kluster Bah Bemban dikesan hasil saringan pulang dari kawasan berisiko tinggi, iaitu Sabah," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham memaklumkan bahawa empat kematian ba-



haru dilaporkan, semalam, dengan semuanya membabitkan mangsa di Sabah, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif mencecah 180 kes (0.9 peratus).

Beliau berkata, kes kematian ke-177 membabitkan lelaki berusia 78 tahun yang juga menghidap penyakit darah tinggi dan buah pinggang kronik.

"Kes kematian ke-178 pula membabitkan seorang lelaki berusia 88 tahun.

"Beliau turut menghidap penyakit darah tinggi, kencing manis, dislipidemia dan strok," katanya sambil memaklumkan bahawa kedua-dua mangsa itu meninggal dunia di Hospital Queen Elizabeth.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes kematian ke-179 membabitkan wanita berusia 71 tahun dan tiada latar belakang penyakit serta disahkan meninggal dunia di Hospital Tawau.

"Kes kematian ke-180 pula

## PM disahkan negatif COVID-19

**Kuala Lumpur:** Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin disahkan negatif COVID-19 selepas menjalani dua ujian saringan.

Pejabat Perdana Menteri dalam satu kenyataan memaklumkan, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menjalankan ujian saringan pengesanan COVID-19 bagi sampel kedua ke atas Muhyiddin pada 14 Oktober dan disahkan negatif, pada Khamis lalu.

Sehubungan itu, Pejabat Perdana Menteri memaklumkan bahawa kedua-dua ujian pengesanan COVID-19 bagi Perdana Menteri sepanjang tempoh kuarantin sendiri sudah disahkan negatif dan tempoh kuarantin sendiri beliau tamat kelmarin.

Dalam pada itu, Perdana Menteri terus komited memperkerusi mesyuarat khas Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) berkenaan COVID-19 yang diadakan secara sidang video semalam.

"Walaupun tempoh kuarantin sendiri sudah tamat, mesyuarat khas MKN masih dijalankan melalui sidang video sebagai langkah berjaga-jaga dalam menghadapi situasi semasa COVID-19 di dalam negara.

"Mesyuarat khas MKN ini berlangsung setiap hari bermula 7 Oktober lalu," kata kenyataan itu.

membabitkan lelaki berusia 53 tahun yang juga tiada latar belakang penyakit. Beliau disahkan meninggal dunia di Hospital Duchess of Kent," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam, 302 pesakit sudah sembuh sepenuhnya, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif mencecah 12,561 kes (64 peratus).



BH TV



AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

# Pusat tumpu Sabah

Pelbagai bantuan disalur, KKM tambah baik sistem kesihatan

Oleh Mohd Iskandar Ibrahim, Illah Hafiz Abd Aziz dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman  
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**Kuala Lumpur:** Kerajaan kini memberikan tumpuan khusus kepada Sabah berikutan situasi penularan COVID-19 yang menyaksikan peningkatan kes berbanding negeri lain.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, berkata pelbagai bantuan disalurkan kepada negeri berkenaan, termasuk kewangan, meningkatkan keperluan kesihatan, selain menambah kekuatan anggota dan aset keselamatan serta jumlah sekatan jalan raya.

"Kerajaan sedang memberikan perhatian khusus kepada Sabah ekoran situasi semasa COVID-19 yang menyebabkan peningkatan kes agak tinggi berbanding negeri lain.

"Demografi Sabah yang luas dan jumlah penduduk ramai memerlukan kerajaan memberi tumpuan khusus. Semua tindakan ini adalah usaha kita bagi menyekat penularan COVID-19, sekali gus memastikan kese-

lamatan rakyat," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang media perkembangan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Pemulihan (PKPP) di sini, semalam.

Selain Sabah, Ismail Sabri berkata, kerajaan turut memberi tumpuan di Sarawak yang memiliki kawasan perairan panjang dan memerlukan kawalan pertahanan serta keselamatan tinggi daripada sebarang pencerobohan.

"Bagaimanapun, kawalan anggota keselamatan sahaja tidak memadai untuk menyekat penularan COVID-19.

"Pembabitkan semua pihak penting, termasuk pemimpin masyarakat bersama-sama membantu memastikan negara selamat," katanya.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata pelbagai penambahbaikan dilakukan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) bagi memastikan sistem kesihatan awam dan perubatan di Sabah berada dalam keadaan mampan, sekali gus berupaya membendung penularan COVID-19.

Katanya, pihaknya memandang serius situasi penularan di Sabah sejak awal peningkatan bilangan kes wabak itu di negeri berkenaan.

"Banyak usaha dijalankan seperti meningkatkan kapasiti dan mobilisasi aset serta sumber manusia.

"Penambahbaikan dilakukan, termasuk mempertingkatkan kapasiti ujian makmal ujian Real-Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) dan kit ujian pantas (RTK) antigen.

"Kementerian Kesihatan meningkatkan kapasiti katil di hospital COVID-19, Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Berisiko Rendah (PKRC) serta Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU), selain alat bantuan pernafasan," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19, semalam.

Jumlah katil hospital COVID-19 di Sabah ditingkatkan daripada 2,129 katil pada September kepada 5,414 katil ketika ini.

Selain itu, KKM akan menggunakan pengalaman gelombang kedua COVID-19 yang berlaku beberapa bulan lalu bagi menghadapi krisis terbaru pandemik itu, khususnya dalam membantu petugas barisan hadapan di Sabah.

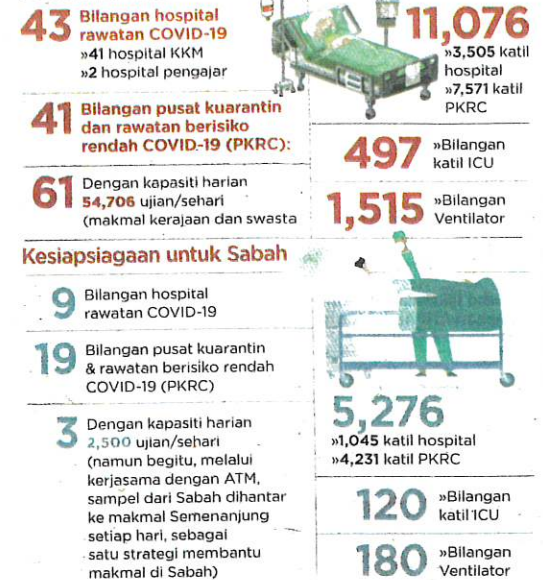
KKM mempunyai pengalaman untuk menghadapi gelombang ketiga hari ini khususnya dalam penyediaan kelengkapan kesihatan seperti pakaian perlindungan diri (PPE).

"Setakat ini, Alhamdulillah kelengkapan kesihatan seperti PPE mencukupi khususnya di Sabah, yang turut mempunyai dana tambahan.

"Semua stok ini akan dipantau secara rapi oleh bekalan data pusat dan mobilisasi sebagai persediaan menghadapi peningka-

## KESIAPSIAGAAN HOSPITAL KKM MERAWAT PESAKIT COVID-19

Data kesiapsiagaan seluruh Malaysia



tan kes," katan.

Beliau berkata, KKM berbesar hati menerima banyak sumbangan daripada pelbagai pihak dan dapat menambah kegunaan masa hadapan.

"Ramai dermawan mahu tampil membantu seperti kita menghadapi gelombang kedua lalu, malah Ketua Setiausaha KKM

sendiri sudah mengaktifkan akaun amanah sumbangan COVID-19, yang akan digunakan mengikut tatacara yang ditetapkan," katanya.

KKM akan bekerjasama dengan pelbagai agensi khususnya Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM) yang akan membantu menangani pandemik itu di Sabah.

Grafik11



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES  
 MUKA SURAT : 3  
 RUANGAN : STORY OF THE DAY/ NEWS



## Kedah prison gets makeshift hospital

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A makeshift health facility is being set up at the Pokok Sena Prison in Kedah to treat Covid-19 patients, Health Minister Datuk Seri Adham Baba said yesterday.

He said two workshop blocks in the prison were being turned into a health facility for Covid-19 treatment, including for patients who need oxygen assistance.

He said the makeshift hospital could accommodate up to 250 patients and would be operational on Tuesday.

It consists of facilities from the third and fourth categories, including Intensive Care Unit facilities for patients who need oxygen assistance before they are sent to Tuanku Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital in Alor Star.

The makeshift hospital is the result of a collaboration between the Health Ministry and the armed forces following the success of setting up a field hospital in Tawau, Sabah.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yesterday said Covid-19 cases from the Pokok Sena Prison were part of the Tembok cluster's 1,525 cases.

## Record high of 869 new cases, 5 more clusters and 4 deaths

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's Covid-19 cases surged again yesterday, with 869 new cases reported, the highest daily jump since the pandemic hit the country.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said this brought the total number of active cases to 6,886 and raised Malaysia's cumulative tally of infections to 19,627.

A total of 451 cases (51.9 per cent) were recorded in Sabah, he said via a virtual press conference shared on the Health Ministry's Facebook page.

"In the Klang Valley, 159 cases (20.3 per cent) were recorded in Selangor, 15 in Kuala Lumpur and two in Putrajaya. These states are under the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO).

"Overall, 224 cases, or 25.8 per cent, are from the Tembok cluster in Kedah, Penjara Reman cluster and Penjara Seberang Perai cluster. These cases are isolated at the prisons and are not an infection risk to the community."

All 869 cases, he said, were local transmissions, involving 745 Malaysians and 124 foreigners.

Of the total, he said, four cases were returnees from Sabah.

Four deaths were reported yesterday, bringing the total to 180. This translates into a fatality rate of 0.9 per cent of the total cases.

A total of 302 more patients recovered yesterday, bringing the total to 12,561.

Dr Noor Hisham said 91 patients were being treated in the Intensive Care Unit, with 30 on ventilator support.

Yesterday saw the discovery of five new clusters.

They are the Teduh cluster in Lahad Datu, Sabah; Menara cluster in the Klang Valley and Perak; Keladi cluster in Klang, Selangor; Sentral cluster in the Klang Valley; and, the Bah Bemban cluster in Dungun, Terengganu and Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Dr Noor Hisham said the Health Ministry had ramped up its capacity to treat Covid-19 patients in Sabah to control the outbreak in the state, with five initiatives taken to ensure the state's public health and medical system could stop the virus.

He said the efforts taken were increasing the capacity to process reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and RTK Antigen tests, increas-

ing the number of beds at Covid-19 hospitals and at Quarantine and Low Risk Treatment Centres (PKRC), increasing the number of ventilators and ICU beds, mobilisation of healthcare personnel, and outsourcing of medical services for non-Covid-19 cases.

He said the laboratory testing capacity in Sabah had doubled since July, when the RT-PCR test capacity was 1,350 a day, to 2,600 tests a day.

He said Sabah now has nine Covid-19 hospitals and 21 PKRC.

He said 767 healthcare personnel had been deployed to Tawau, Lahad Datu, Semporna, Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu.

At another live press conference streamed on Facebook, Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the government was focusing on providing assistance to Sabah following the surge in Covid-19 cases in the state.

He said the aid included funds, expanding health necessities and more personnel, assets and road-blocks.

"With a wide demography and large population, Sabah requires the government to focus its ef-

forts there to mitigate the spread of the infection and ensure the people's safety."

He said the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) had despatched medical assets and healthcare personnel to the new Armed Forces field hospital in Tawau yesterday.

Ismail Sabri, who is also senior defence minister, said a 14-tonne consignment with medical supplies and other necessities had been sent to the field hospital.

"The field hospital at the Tawau Sports Complex will be operated by the Armed Forces health services with a capacity of 100 beds, including four Intensive Care Unit beds, which will treat non-Covid-19 cases.

"This hospital will start operating next week."

He said the RMAF also sent medical equipment to Sabah.

Healthcare centres in Kota Kinabalu received additional Personal Protective Equipment comprising tyvek suits and face masks from Mercy Malaysia and the Health Ministry, he said.

Besides Sabah, he said, the government was also focusing on Sarawak as the state had a vast

border and required strict defence and security enforcement to deter transboundary encroachment.

At a special ministerial meeting with the Youth and Sports Ministry yesterday, Ismail Sabri said, it was decided that gyms in CMCO areas could operate as long they abide by the standard operating procedures (SOP).

He said football fields and futsal centres were allowed to operate, but only for training, with not more than 10 people at a time.

"This will come into effect on Monday and the Youth and Sports Ministry will soon announce the detailed SOP."

Business operators who have to ferry more than one person in a vehicle to their premises must get a permission letter from the police, said Ismail Sabri in response to a question on the case of a family of four that was compounded for travelling 30km in the same car to their business premises in Jenjarom from Subang Jaya.

He said he had been given the all-clear with regard to Covid-19 and would hold physical press conferences starting today.



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

# Hospital staff rise to the challenge

Doctors and nurses from different departments do what they can to help

**KOTA KINABALU:** Medical staffers at the Women and Children's Hospital in Likas are working with all the help they can get within their facility to deal with the increasing number of patients amid the Covid-19 pandemic in Sabah.

Though these medical frontliners have not complained about the growing challenges faced amid Sabah's daily three-digit rise in cases since Oct 1, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham has described the situation here as a "crisis".

Hospital director Dr Marcus Netto said despite having sufficient manpower the hospital would need help in terms of skilled doctors and nurses.

"We are talking about anaesthesiologists and nurses in the intensive care units," he said.

He explained that all medical staff were in high spirits for the time being due to the schedule, support system and motivation given.

"We have improved a lot in how we manage our staff, we give them time off and conduct scheduled health screenings (these are mainly for those directly involved with Covid-19 cases)," Dr Marcus said.

He said this after receiving contributions including the state's first mobile negative pressure room from Osmal Foundation represented by its founder and former chief justice of the Federal Court Tan Sri Richard Malanjum yesterday.

Dr Cheah Phee Kheng, the head of



**Military help:** Military officers setting up a field hospital at the Tawau sports centre to help with unrelated Covid-19 cases including trauma surgery, maternity cases and other emergencies. — Bernama

Emergency Physicians, who was also present, said the Covid-19 pandemic had shown them the best side of their staff members.

He said though there were challenges, they

had all stepped up their game.

"We also get staff members from other departments such as dentistry helping us and this is the kind of unprecedented cooperation

we see in the hospital," he said.

Dr Cheah said the public too had been very generous and supportive, which was very much appreciated.

Earlier at the event, Dr Marcus said the mobile pressure room was vital in treating Covid-19 patients.

He said the room functioned to sanitise the air inside before releasing it out.

"We need more such rooms, not only for this hospital but at Queen Elizabeth Hospital as well," he said.

As for other wards, Dr Marcus said step-down centres for Covid-19 patients who were on the road to recovery and were no longer in critical stage were also being set up in phases by the government.

"Yes, we need more of these step-down centres," he said.

He added that there were a total of 186 beds available to handle Covid-19 patients in the hospital.

Dr Marcus added that for Covid-19 screenings, the hospital received an average of about 150 patients a day with 20 to 40 being warded daily.

Other than the mobile room, the foundation also raised enough money to get personal protective equipment and powered air-purifying respirators.

"We will try to bring in more donations to other hospitals as well," he said.

The foundation has donated about RM1mil for frontliners in the healthcare system to fight Covid-19 since early this year.



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

## Covid-19: Current situation globally (As at 7pm Oct 17, 2020)

|                 | Malaysia        |             |           |           |           |           |          |          |         |          |        |      |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|--------|------|
|                 | New cases       |             |           |           |           |           |          |          |         |          |        |      |
|                 | Total cases     |             |           |           |           |           |          |          |         |          |        |      |
|                 | Total deaths    |             |           |           |           |           |          |          |         |          |        |      |
|                 | Total recovered |             |           |           |           |           |          |          |         |          |        |      |
|                 | <b>869</b>      |             |           |           |           |           |          |          |         |          |        |      |
|                 | <b>19,627</b>   |             |           |           |           |           |          |          |         |          |        |      |
|                 | <b>180</b>      |             |           |           |           |           |          |          |         |          |        |      |
|                 | <b>12,561</b>   |             |           |           |           |           |          |          |         |          |        |      |
| Asean+          | Indonesia       | Philippines | Japan     | China     | Singapore | Myanmar   | S. Korea | Thailand | Vietnam | Cambodia | Brunei | Laos |
| Confirmed cases | 357,762         | 354,338     | 91,431    | 85,659    | 57,904    | 33,488    | 25,108   | 3,679    | 1,124   | 283      | 147    | 23   |
| Deaths          | 12,431          | 6,603       | 1,650     | 4,634     | 28        | 799       | 443      | 59       | 35      | 0        | 3      | 0    |
| Recovered       | 281,592         | 295,312     | 84,451    | 80,766    | 57,784    | 15,477    | 23,258   | 3,478    | 1,031   | 280      | 143    | 22   |
| Global Top 10   | US              | India       | Brazil    | Russia    | Spain     | Argentina | Colombia | Peru     | Mexico  | France   |        |      |
| Confirmed cases | 8,288,278       | 7,432,680   | 5,201,570 | 1,384,235 | 982,723   | 965,609   | 945,354  | 862,417  | 841,661 | 834,770  |        |      |
| Deaths          | 223,644         | 113,032     | 153,229   | 24,002    | 33,775    | 25,723    | 28,616   | 33,648   | 85,704  | 33,303   |        |      |
| Recovered       | 5,395,401       | 6,524,595   | 4,619,560 | 1,065,199 | N/A       | 778,501   | 837,001  | 769,077  | 612,216 | 104,696  |        |      |

# SOP in prisons to be reviewed

We can see a spike in numbers for cases in jails, says Health DG

By ALLISON LAI  
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**PETALING JAYA:** There is a need to review the standard operating procedure (SOP) practised in prisons, which contributed towards the large number of Covid-19 infections after Sabah, says Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said yesterday that the prisons clusters, namely Tembok, Penjara Reman and Seberang Perai, have contributed a total of 224 cases or 25.8% of the day's total cases.

"Comparatively, for Sabah, although recording the highest

cases in the country for today at 451, the trend has been rather steady in the past three days with no apparent spike in figures.

"In fact, the numbers today came down from 489 on Friday.

"We can see a spike in numbers for cases in jails in the peninsula.

"That is why there is a need for us to review the SOP there," he said at his 'daily Covid-19 briefing yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said mass screenings need to be conducted not only in jails but also at depots and lockups at all district police headquarters.

"The inmates also need to be pro-

duced and one of the methods is to conduct mass screening.

"We have discussed this with the Prisons Department and various public health activities would be rolled out in jails soon," he said.

Yesterday, Malaysia recorded yet another record high of 869 new Covid-19 infections, with five new clusters and four deaths, bringing the total death toll to 180.

The four deaths were all Malaysians in Sabah, involving three men aged 53, 78 and 88 and a 71-year-old woman.

Sabah recorded 451 cases, followed by Penang (189), Selangor (159), Kedah (38), four each in Perak

and Sarawak, Terengganu (three), two each in Johor and Putrajaya, and one each in Negri Sembilan and Melaka.

All of the cases yesterday were local transmissions, involving 745 Malaysians and 124 foreigners. Four of them were returnees from Sabah.

Dr Noor Hisham noted the five new clusters: Teduh (Sabah), Menara (Klang Valley and Perak), Keladi (Klang), Sentral (Kuala Lumpur) and Bah Bemban (Terengganu and Kota Kinabalu).

There are so far 81 active clusters and 31 of them reported new cases in the past 24 hours.

## Sabah gets 14 tonnes of medical supplies

**KOTA KINABALU:** More than 14 tonnes of medical supplies have been delivered by the Malaysian Armed Forces to Sabah.

The pilot involved in the operation, Mjr Mohd Saifuddin Mohd Amin, said the items for the Tawau field hospital, which is expected to start operating on Tuesday, and Kota Kinabalu, included personal protective equipment (PPE), isolation gowns, masks and tyvek suits.

There were also medical supplies from Mercy Malaysia for use in hospitals around Kota Kinabalu.

He said this mission to deliver medical supplies was the first by the Armed Forces since the start of the pandemic this year.

Apart from medical supplies, additional help from the Royal Health Corps comprising four officers and 29 personnel also arrived on the same flight.



### Keeping the people safe

Personnel from the Hazmat Unit of the Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia spraying disinfectant at a spot where the homeless people often gather in Jalan Medan Tuanku, Kuala Lumpur. — AZMAN GHANI/The Star

# DG the voice of encouragement in virus fight

By JUNAIID IBRAHIM  
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**PETALING JAYA:** When Covid-19 infections began to swell earlier this month, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah sent out an uplifting message to the frontliners.

"Our country depends on us. Despite many sleepless nights and chronic fatigue, wipe your tears, chin up, eyes forward, let's flatten the curve again," he tweeted.

He cautioned the frontliners that there was "a huge battle ahead of us". That tweet was sent out on Oct 3. There were 317 new infections

that day, bringing the total number of cumulative cases to 10,216 then.

There has since been 47,000 "likes" to Dr Noor Hisham's post.

Malaysians responded to the tweet, thanking the frontliners and describing them as unsung heroes.

Someone replied to his post with an image of Captain America.

Then on Oct 8, Dr Noor Hisham sent out a reminder again to his team to cheer them on.

"To all our frontline workers, please remember that we are the protector of the rakyat that health and our nation's safety; we are the last line of defence.

"We must keep our spirits up and

continue to be strong," he wrote.

He pointed out that it had been "10 long months for many of us on the frontlines and back scenes, working round the clock 24/7".

"Many would feel fatigued or frustrated with every new cluster that emerges. After all, we are only human. We have a small window of opportunity to flatten the curve again."

Dr Noor Hisham sent out a reminder to the Malaysian public as well.

"Let us be united in our war against this current large-scale Covid-19 transmission.

"We cannot win this war without

public support. All we ask is for the public to 'stay at home' and if that is not possible, then please comply with the simple SOP; 'avoid 3C & practise 3W'."

Twitter users applauded the efforts by the frontliners.

"Thank you for keeping us all safe. You have set a fine example for the world to follow. This too shall pass and Malaysia will overcome it soon," said @nirmaishbat.

As for @ramliabdullah11, he wrote: "We, the public, are behind you and those in the frontline, Tan Sri. We also pray that God would grant you and the team strength while we observe the SOP."