

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

## 4,571 kes baharu, hampir separuh di Selangor

**Putrajaya:** Sebanyak 4,571 kes baharu COVID-19 dilaporkan semalam dan hampir separuh daripadanya direkodkan di Selangor sebanyak, iaitu 2,058 kes.

Daripada jumlah itu, tiga kes import dilaporkan, manakala 4,568 lagi membabitkan penularan tempatan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata pertambahan kes baharu itu menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes di negara ini 231,483 kes.

Katanya, sehingga kini terdapat 48,771 kes aktif dengan kebolehan COVID-19 dan daripada jumlah itu 308 kes sedang dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) dan 185 kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

"Sehingga jam 12 tengah hari ini (semalam) 4,092 kes pulih dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sepenuhnya ialah 181,886 kes bersamaan 78.6 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, semalam.

Sementara itu, Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, 17 kes kematian dilaporkan membabitkan 15 warganegara dan dua warga asing.

Ia menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kematian di negara ini 826 kes atau 0.36 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

"Selangor" kekal melaporkan kes harian baharu tertinggi, iaitu 2,056 kes diikuti Johor 664 kes dan Kuala Lumpur 481 kes.

"Sebanyak 287 kes dilaporkan

adalah berkaitan kluster di penjara dan depot tahanan Imigresen membabitkan Kluster Tembok Taiping 79 kes, Kluster Penjara Jalan Sungai Jelok 65 kes, Kluster Penjara Jalan Harapan 3 kes, Kluster Tembok Bukit Besi 2 kes, Kluster Tembok Pengkalan Chepa 1 kes, Kluster Matambai 1 kes dan Kluster Penjara Kepayan 1," katanya.

Sebanyak 4,092 kes dilaporkan pulih semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sepenuhnya adalah 181,886 kes atau 78.6 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

Kes kematian membabitkan empat di Selangor, masing-masing tiga di Sarawak dan Sabah, dua di Johor dan Pahang serta ma-

sing-masing satu di Melaka, Kelantan dan Negeri Sembilan.

Kes kematian semalam turut membabitkan bayi lelaki berusia empat bulan yang mempunyai penyakit jantung.

Mengenai 10 kluster baharu semalam, Dr. Noor Hisham berkata enam dikesan berpunca dari tempat kerja, manakala empat lagi membabitkan komuniti.

"Antara kluster yang dikesan ialah Kluster Jalan Industri Rawang (Gombak) yang menjangkiti 23 individu; Kluster Jalan Gombak (Gombak, Sepang, Petaling, Hulu Langat dan Cheras) menjangkiti 41 individu; Kluster Jalan Jasmine (Hulu Selangor) menjangkiti 61 individu dan Kluster Parit Penyengat (Muar) menjang-

kiti 34 kes.

"Selain itu ialah Kluster Kampung Lukut (Kota Tinggi) menjangkiti 15 kes; Kluster Jalan Jelutong (Kota Tinggi) menjangkiti tujuh kes; Kluster Jalan Pengiran (Matu di Sarawak) menjangkiti 20 kes; Kluster Permata Satu (Seremban) menjangkiti 31 kes; Kluster Rantau Tanjung (Maran) menjangkiti 14 kes dan terakhir Kluster Kampung Pulau Jawa (Pekan) menjangkiti 16 kes," katanya.

Dr. Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan sehingga jam 12 tengah hari semalam, 4,092 kes pulih dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih sepenuhnya ialah 181,886 kes bersamaan 78.6 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : COVID-19

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# Kita belum gagal: Menteri

## Malaysia berada di kedudukan ke-16 daripada 98 negara cekap urus koronavirus

Kuala Lumpur

**"K**ita belum gagal," kata Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaacob mengenai tuduhan sesetengah pihak bahawa kerajaan gagal memerangi Covid-19 di negara ini, gagsal susulani peningkatan kes-kebelakangan ini.

Katanya, ia terbukti melalui hasil kajian Lowy Institute iaitu badan pemikir berpusat di Sydney, Australia terhadap Malaysia berkenaan kecekapan menguruskan Covid-19.

Menurutnya, Malaysia berada di kedudukan ke-16 daripada 98 negara, mengatasi beberapa negara terkemuka di Asia antaranya Jepun dan Korea Selatan dengan skor diberi ialah 71 peratus.

"Kita pernah berjaya sekali, tetapi kita belum gagal," katanya pada sidang media harian, semalam.

Beliau turut menjelaskan kekeliruan orang ramai mengenai pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) 1.0, 2.0 dan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB) ketika ini.

Katanya, ketika PKP 1.0 ta-



NASUKAN Pengurusan Jenazah Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Gombak menguruskan proses pengebumian jasad seorang pesakit Covid-19 di sebuah tanah perkuburan Islam di ibu kota.

hum jatu, kerajaan melaksanakan penutupan sepenuhnya perniagaan, ekonomi dan sektor sosial.

"Bagi PKP kedua, kita halang pergerakan, tiada rentas daerah dan negeri. Namun kita beri sedikit kelonggaran iaitu membuka sektor ekonomi khusus yang ber-

kaitan dengan mikro ekonomi atau berkaitan peniaga kecil yang tujuannya untuk memberikan ruang kepada peniaga kecil mencari rezeki. Kita tidak buka sektor atau aktiviti sosial.

"Bezanya PKP 1.0 kita tutup semua, PKP 2.0 kita buka ekonomi, tetapi tidak sepenuhnya dan tidak membuka sektor sosial," katanya. Ismail Sabri berkata, bagi

PKPB pula kerajaan membuka semua sektor ekonomi dan sebahagian daripada aktiviti sosial dengan menghadkan jumlah kehadiran. "Sebagai contoh perjumpaan dalam dewan misalnya kita tetapkan jumlah tertentu, kita hadkan dari segi jumlah pergerakan. "Itu antara perbezaan jelas antara PKP 1.0, PKP 2.0 dan PKPB," katanya.

# 4,571 positif Covid-19

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 4,571 kes positif Covid-19 direkodkan semalam, meningkatkan jumlah keseluruhan kepada 22,083 kes.

Pada masa yang sama, 662 kes pulih dilaporkan.

Ketika Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada jumlah itu, tiga adalah kes baru di Klang, Kuala Lumpur dan Malacca serta penularan tempatan. "Selangor" Reka" melaporkan kes harian baharu tertinggi iaitu 2,056 kes dan 481 kes bagi Kuala Lumpur," katanya.

Sebaliknya, 387 kes dilaporkan adalah berkaitan kluster di pejabat dan di luar tanah imigrasi. Ia melibatkan 29 kes bagi Kluster Tembok Lalang, Kluster Penjara Jalan Sungai Jelok (63 kes), Kluster Penjara Jalan Harapan (tiga kes), Kluster Tembok Bukit Bed (lima kes) dan masing-masing satu kes

bagi Kluster Tembok Pengkalian Chempu, Kluster Malacca serta Kluster Padang Kenayan. Dr Noor Hisham berkata, 308 kes positif Covid-19 Selangor dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dengan 131 kes memerlukan bantuan bernafas.

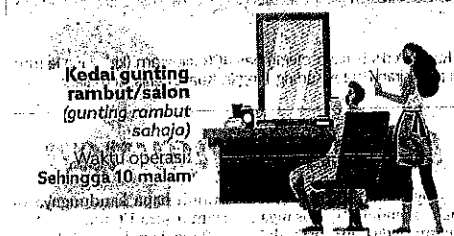
Tujuh belas kematian yang dilaporkan melibatkan empat kes di Selangor, masing-masing tiga kes di Sabah dan dua kes di Johor dan Pahang serta masing-masing satu kes di Melaka, Kelantan dan Negeri Sembilan. Ia menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kematian kepada 825 kes, katanya.

### PERKHIDMATAN DIBENARKAN BEROPERASI DENGAN SOP YANG KETAT

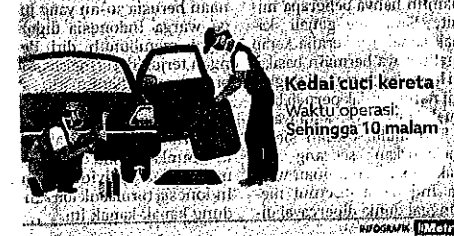
Berkuat kuasa 4 Februari 2021



Pasar malam  
Waktu operasi  
4 petang - 10 malam



Kedai gunting rambut/salon (gunting rambut sahaja)  
Waktu operasi  
sehingga 10 malam



Kedai cuci kereta  
Waktu operasi  
sehingga 10 malam

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : COVID-19



ANGGOTA Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) Negeri Selangor menjalankan proses penyahkuaman atau disinfeksi pada Operasi Sanitasi Awam bagi mengekang penularan wabak Covid-19 ketika tarjangan di PPR Lembah Subang, semalam.

# 80% rakyat disuntik

Oleh Suraya Roslan dan Mahazura Abd-Malik am@hmetro.com.my

## Pemberian vaksin mengikut tiga fasa akan memastikan 26.5 juta rakyat dikebalkan

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kerajaan menyasarkan 30 peratus populasi negara ini atau 26.5 juta orang akan menerima suntikan vaksin Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan yang akan diberikan secara percuma kepada rakyat Malaysia sepanjang tempoh program berkenaan.

Buat permulaan, 500,000 petugas barisan hadapan akan dimulakan dalam memastikan petugas kesihatan dan petugas bukan kesihatan diaduakan me-

nerima suntikan pada fasa pertama Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan mulai hujung bulan ini dan berakhir April ini.

Perdana Menteri Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin berkata, fasa berkenaan amat penting untuk melindungi petugas yang berada di barisan hadapan dalam menangani pandemik Covid-19.

Fasa kedua pula membabitkan kumpulan berisiko tinggi dijangkiti Covid-19 seperti warga emas dan golongan rentan iaitu yang berusia 60 tahun ke atas, yang mengalami masalah morbiditi seperti penyakit jantung, obesiti, diabetes dan tekanan darah tinggi serta orang kurang upaya (OKU).

"Dianggarkan 9.4 juta orang akan menerima vak-

**“ 9.4 juta orang akan menerima vaksin di bawah fasa kedua ”**  
Muhyiddin

sin di bawah fasa kedua ini yang akan berlangsung mulai April hingga Ogos ini,” katanya dalam Perutusan khas, semalam.

Menurut Muhyiddin, fasa ketiga membabitkan penerima vaksin daripada golongan dewasa berusia 18 tahun ke atas yang akan bermula pada Mei ini hingga Februari 2022.

“Fasa ini penting untuk membentuk pertahanan kelompok atau herd immunity” seterusnya mengawal pandemik ini secara menyeluruh,” katanya.

**Kuala Lumpur:** Lebih 600 pusat simpanan dan pemberian vaksin akan dibuka di seluruh negara bagi melancarkan pelaksanaan Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan yang akan dimulakan hujung bulan ini.

Perdana Menteri Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin berkata, peruntukan dalam Ordinan Darurat (Keperluan Puluhan) 2021 akan digubal kerajaan untuk mengambil alih secara sementara dewan dan kemudahan sedia ada bagi tujuan persediaan melaksanakan Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan.

“Saya sudah mengarahkan pihak berkuasa menggunakan pelbagai kemudahan termasuk fasiliti kesihatan awam dan swasta, stadium, pusat konvensi,

# 600 pusat simpanan, pemberian vaksin dibuka

dan dewan orang ramai serta universiti sebagai pusat vaksinasi.

“Justeru, saya menyeru pihak mengajak seluruh rakyat Malaysia untuk bersama-sama mengemulak langkah dan segala sumber yang ada bagi menjayakan program ini.

“Anda semua boleh bersama-sama menghulurkan bantuaian sama ada dari aspek perubatan dan bukan perubatan, khususnya aspek pendidikan akan ke-

giatan di pusat-pusat vaksinasi bagi menjayakan program ini,” katanya dalam perutusan khas yang disiarkan secara langsung, semalam.

Beliau berkata, semua menteri bersefusi melantik Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar sebagai Menteri Penyelaras Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan bagi memastikan program ini dilaksanakan dengan teratur.

Beliau akan mengetuai satu Pasukan Petugas Khas yang menguruskan pelaksanaan Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan khususnya isu berkaitan logistik dan penyelarasan dengan negeri dan agensi kerajaan.

“Ini bagi membolehkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia untuk terus menumpukan kepada fungsi perkhidmatan kesihatan dalam menangani penularan wabak Covid-19 yang masih menipukkannya dan membayangkan,” katanya.

**Khairy Jamaluddin dilantik Menteri Penyelaras Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan**

# Kompaun lebih tinggi kepada pesalah berulang

**Kuala Lumpur:** Tindakan kompaun lebih tinggi kepada pesalah berulang atau sudah diberi amaran menanti mereka sebaik Pindaan Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988 (Akta 342) di hulaskan di bawah Proklamasi Darurat.

Perdana Menteri Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin berkata, jawatankuasa Teknikal Pengurusan Darurat meneliti peruntukan dalam Akta 342 yang perlu dipinda untuk membolehkan tindakan penguatkuasaan yang lebih tegas dan cepat diambil.

“Antaranya ialah tindakan kompaun lebih tinggi kepada pesalah berulang atau yang sudah diberi amaran.

Selain itu, alih-alih penutupan serta-merta premis perniagaan yang tidak mematuhi peraturan dan prosedur operasi standard

(SOP) yang ditetapkan kerajaan,” katanya dalam perutusan khas, semalam.

Menurut Muhyiddin, tindakan perundangan boleh diambil terhadap pemilik perniagaan, pemegang francais, operator francais dan pihak berkepentingan lain dalam rantaian organisasi perniagaan.

Tindakan perundangan boleh diambil terhadap rantaian pengurusan pekerja asing membabitkan majikan, ejen pembekal pekerja, kontraktor utama, sub kontraktor dan orang perseorangan.

“Malah, tindakan penjara ke atas pesalah yang melanggar peraturan dan SOP serta tindakan tatatertib ke atas penjawat awam yang tidak mematuhi peraturan dan SOP termasuk kepada ketua jabatan berkaitan pelaksanaan dasar Berkerja Dari Rumah,” katanya.

# Pinda Akta 446 tangani penginapan pekerja

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kerajaan dalam proses meminda Akta Standard Minimum Pemukiman dan Penghaparan Kemudahan Pekerja 1990 (Akta 446) bagi tujuan menangani isu pengurusan tempat tinggal pekerja menelusur tindakan penguatkuasaan yang lebih tegas.

Perdana Menteri Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin berkata, ia dibuat memenuh kuasa di berikan kepada kerajaan di bawah Proklamasi Darurat.

Menurut Muhyiddin, pe-

nginapan pekerja asing yang sesak dan tidak memenuhi standard menjadi antara punca utama penularan Covid-19 dalam kalangan pekerja di negara ini.

“Antara pindaan akan dibuat ialah mewujudkan majikan untuk menyediakan tempat tinggal yang memenuhi standard ditetapkan, menanggung kos penginapan, perpindahan dan kos saringan kesihatan pekerja,” katanya dalam perutusan khas, semalam.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : COVID-19

## RINGKAS

## Johor catat kadar Rt tertinggi

Kuala Lumpur, Johor mencatatkan kadar kebolehsangkitan (Rt) harian tertinggi di negara ini lalau pada 1.18 setakat kelmarin, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Berdasarkan infografik yang dikongsikan di Twitter beliau, Kuala Lumpur merekodkan Rt kedua tertinggi pada 1.12 diikuti Labuan (1.11), Terengganu dan Selangor masing-masing mencatatkan 1.10 manakala Sarawak (1.03) dan Pahang (1.01).

Negeri lain mencatatkan bacaan di bawah satu iaitu Perak (0.99), Melaka (0.96), Kedah dan Pulau Pinang (0.93), Putrajaya (0.90), Negeri Sembilan dan Sabah (0.89), Perlis (0.82) dan Kelantan (0.84).

## Tiga rakyat kita positif Covid-19 di Singapura

**Singapura:** Tiga lelaki Malaysia adalah antara 17 kes import baharu Covid-19 yang dilaporkan di Singapura pada Rabu, menurut Kementerian Kesihatan republik itu.

Kementerian berkenaan menerusi data penuh yang dikeluarkan lewat malam semalam memaklumkan semua mereka yang merupakan pemegang permit kerja dan tiba dari Malaysia itu

tidak menunjukkan gejala atau asimptomatik.

Kes import lain adalah dari Bangladesh, India dan Indonesia.

Mereka merupakan antara 18 kes yang direkodkan di Singapura pada Rabu dengan yang lain adalah penularan tempatan, menjadikan jumlah jangkitan kepada 59,602 kes.

Setakat ini, kementerian mengklasifikasikan 2,779 da-

ripada kes dilaporkan sebagai kes import, 2,315 adalah kes komuniti manakala seramai 54,508 melibatkan penghuni asrama.

Singapura sudah menamatkan kluster yang dikaitkan dengan NewOcean 6, sebuah kapal tangki bunker, menjadikan hanya tiga kluster pada masa ini.

Secara keseluruhannya, 59,320 orang sudah sembuh sepenuhnya dan dibenarkan

keluar hospital atau kemudahan rawatan komuniti.

Sementara itu, 214 pesakit yang mengalami gejala ringan atau secara klinikal sihat, tetapi diuji positif Covid-19 sudah diasingkan dan dirawat di kemudahan komuniti.

Sehingga kini, seramai 29 orang sudah meninggal dunia akibat komplikasi Covid-19 di negara berkenaan. - Bernama

# Rasa lega dua kali disuntik

Sejumlah rakyat Malaysia bekerja di Singapura sudah dapat suntikan kedua Pfizer-BioNTech

Singapura

Sejumlah rakyat Malaysia yang bekerja di Singapura merupakan antara lebih 6,000 individu yang sudah mendapat suntikan kedua vaksin Covid-19 Pfizer-BioNTech di sini, sekali gus melengkapkan regimen penuh vaksinasi itu. "Alhamdulillah dan rasa sangat lega," luah Imra Astata Ibrahim kepada Bernama ketika ditemui baru-baru ini selepas menerima suntikan vaksin kali keduanya di sebuah poliklinik di Pioneer di sini.

Beliau dan rakan senegara yang bekerja dalam sektor marin, antara sektor yang diberi keutamaan untuk vaksinasi, menerima suntikan pertama secara berperingkat sejak awal Januari lepas.

Imra Astata, 40, yang tidak teragak-agak menerima vaksin itu apabila ditawarkan oleh majikannya menzahirkan rasa syukur kerana tidak perlu menunggu lama untuk menerima vaksin.

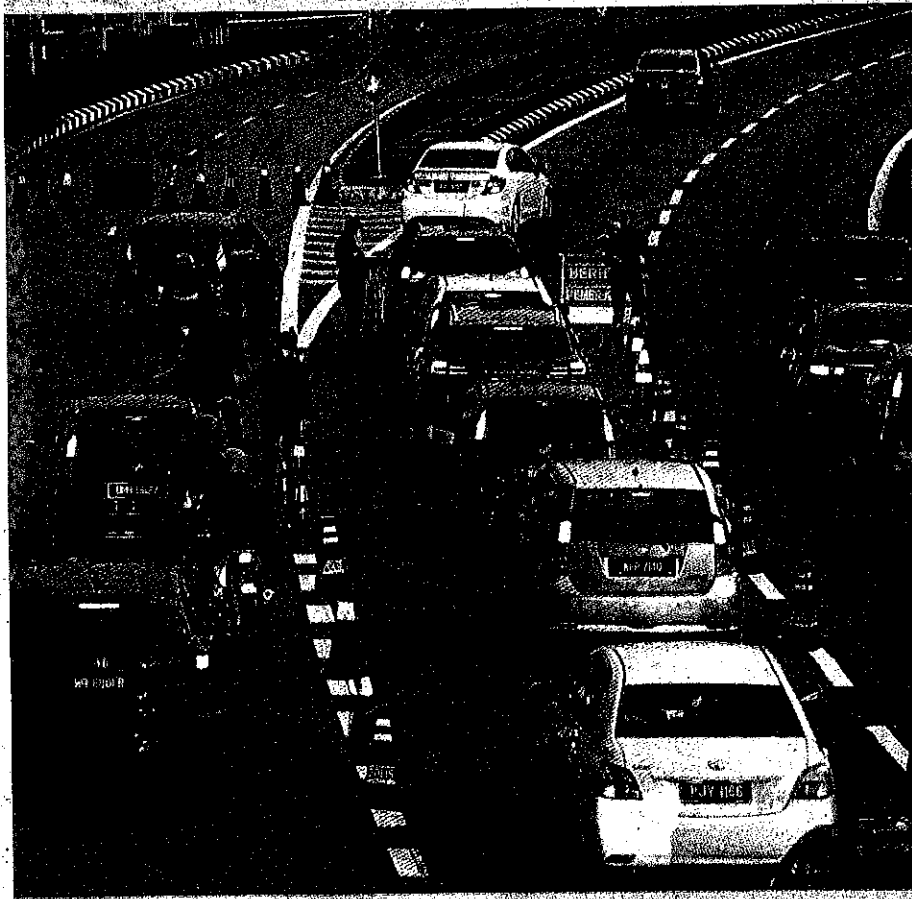
"Kini saya lebih bersedia menjalankan tugas seharian yang perlu berada di barisan hadapan," kata anak kelahiran Johor itu.

Beliau hanya kembali ke Singapura untuk bekerja pada 24 September 2020, selepas enam bulan langkah memperketatkan pergerakan antara kedua-dua semipadan negara diperkenalkan pada Mac tahun lepas, bagi mengekang penularan wabak Covid-19.

"Mudah-mudahan vaksin ini berkesan dan harap keadaan pulih seperti sedia kala," kata bapa kepada tiga cahaya mata yang sentiasa meletakkan harapan dapat berulang-alik semula ke Johor seperti sebelum ini.

Menurut kenyataan Kementerian Kesihatan Singapura, sehingga 2 Feb lebih

Kawalan lebih ketat



ANGGOTA Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) dibantu anggota Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM) dilihat membuat kawalan lebih ketat dengan memeriksa semua kenderaan yang menghala masuk ke pusat bandar Kuala Lumpur di Jalan Kuching, semalam.

175,000 individu telah menerima dos pertama vaksin Pfizer-BioNTech di sini dan kira-kira 6,000 daripada mereka juga telah menerima

dos kedua. Dalam masa dua minggu, kementerian itu memaklumkan mereka akan dilindungi sepenuhnya daripada

Covid-19. Vaksin Pfizer-BioNTech adalah vaksin Covid-19 pertama yang digunakan di Singapura dengan pengan-

taran pertama tiba pada 21 Disember lepas, sekali gus program vaksinasi dimulakan pada 30 Disember. Sebagai nasihat kepada



"Suntikan tidak menyakitkan...ia seperti mengambil suntikan vaksin BCG ketika zaman sekolah"

Imra Astata

yang masih sangsi dengan vaksinasi Covid-19 ini, Imra Astata berkata: "Pastinya setiap kerajaan akan jalankan ujian klinikal. Jangan risau kesan sampingan juga sangat minimum."

"Kepada yang belum ambil (vaksin) jika ada peluang, ambillah," katanya yang turut menolak tanggapan bahawa penerima awal suntikan seolah-olah menjadi 'tikus makmal'.

Beliau turut berkongsi halnya mengalami sengal dan sedikit kebas di tempat suntikan pada tiga hari terawal selepas suntikan pertama dan kembali normal untuk menerima suntikan kedua selepas 21 hari.

"Suntikan tidak menyakitkan...ia seperti mengambil suntikan vaksin BCG (*Bacille Calmette-Guerin*) ketika zaman sekolah," katanya sebelum beredar menaiki motosikalnya untuk kembali bertugas.

Walaupun ia dilakukan secara sukarela, Singapura telah memperuntukkan kepada semua rakyatnya dan penduduk jangka panjang di negara itu untuk menerima vaksin sebelum akhir 2021 secara percuma.

Singapura pada 3 Februari lalu juga sudah memberi kelulusan sementara bagi vaksin Covid-19 keluaran Moderna sebagai vaksin kedua digunakan di negara itu yang dijangka tiba pada Mac 2021. - Bernama

AKHBAR : KOSMO  
 MUKA SURAT : 3  
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

PM beri jaminan bubar Parlimen selepas Covid-19 reda, keadaan selamat

# PRU-15 tetap diadakan – Muhyiddin

**PUTRAJAYA** – Perdana Menteri mengulangi pendirian dan komitmen untuk membubarkan Parlimen sebaik sahaja penularan pandemik Covid-19 telah reda dan seterusnya mengadakan Pilihan Raya Umum ke-15 (PRU-15).

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin berkata, sebagai ketua kerajaan, beliau sentiasa menghormati sistem dan proses perundangan negara ini yang berpaksikan sistem Raja Berperlembagaan dan Demokrasi Berparlimen.

“Saya akan nasihati Agong (Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah) untuk bubar Parlimen sebaik sahaja Covid-19 reda dan PRU-15 selamat diadakan,” tegas beliau ketika sidang akhbar secara langsung semalam.

Dalam pada itu, beliau turut mengingatkan semua pihak supaya berhenti melemparkan tohmahan yang tidak berasas terhadap keprihatinan Al-Sultan Abdullah dalam memperkenankan Proklamasi Darurat.

Menurutnya, kerajaan telah mendapat perkenan selepas Tuanku berpuas hati bahawa penularan wabak Covid-19 di negara ini berada di tahap kritikal dan perlunya pelaksanaan darurat selaras dengan keputusan Jemaah Menteri.

“Proklamasi Darurat yang dimasyhurkan oleh Al-Sultan Abdullah adalah bertujuan memberikan bidang kuasa



PRU-15 akan diadakan apabila pandemik Covid-19 reda dan tidak membimbangkan lagi. – GAMBAR HIASAN



MUHYIDDIN

tertentu kepada kerajaan untuk mengurus pandemik Covid-19 dengan lebih cepat.



Covid-19 berada di tahap yang kritikal dan perlu ditangani segera.

cekap dan berkesan.

“Tindakan serta-merta sedang diambil oleh kerajaan di bawah peruntukan-peruntukan Ordinan Darurat yang sedang berkuat-kuasa. Proklamasi Darurat tidak mempunyai tujuan lain selain daripada membendung penularan Covid-19 dengan lebih berkesan dan melindungi nyawa rakyat,” katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian semasa menyampaikan perutusan khas penjelasan pelaksanaan Proklamasi Darurat dan Pemasysaran Ordinan Darurat dalam mengurus pandemik Covid-19 semalam.

Muhyiddin berkata, beliau percaya bahawa Al-Sultan Abdullah sebagai Ketua Negara amat memahami dan menghormati sistem dan proses perundangan negara walaupun ada segelintir pihak cuba mencabar Proklamasi Darurat di mahkamah.

Pada masa sama, beliau berkata, melalui pewartaan Ordinan Darurat, satu Jawatankuasa Teknikal Pengurusan Darurat telah ditubuhkan untuk memastikan pelaksanaan darurat dalam melawan Covid-19 dapat diurus dengan cekap dan berkesan.

Beliau turut menyeru rakan-rakan, baik daripada pihak kerajaan mahupun pembangkang supaya bersama-sama berganding bahu dan tenaga memerangi wabak Covid-19 tanpa mengira perbezaan fahaman politik.

## Program imunisasi terbesar Covid-19 hujung bulan ini

**PUTRAJAYA** – Kerajaan akan memulakan roll-out pelaksanaan Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan bagi memastikan program imunisasi terbesar yang pernah dilaksanakan di negara ini mulai hujung bulan ini.

Sebanyak 26.5 juta individu atau 80 peratus populasi rakyat Malaysia disasar untuk menerima vaksin yang akan dibertukarkan secara percuma dalam program tersebut.

Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin berkata, program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan itu akan melibatkan tiga fasa dengan fasa pertama membabitkan sejumlah 500,000 petugas barisan hadapan terdiri daripada petugas kesihatan dan petugas bukan kesihatan.

Beliau berkata, fasa pertama program imunisasi itu dijadualkan tamat pada bulan April depan dan amat penting untuk melindungi barisan petugas ha-



PROGRAM Imunisasi Covid-19 adalah program imunisasi terbesar dalam sejarah negara. – AFP

dapan dalam memerangi pandemik Covid-19.

Menurutnya, sebanyak 94 juta orang terdiri daripada kumpulan berisiko tinggi dijangka meneri-

ma vaksin di bawah fasa kedua yang akan berlangsung mulai April hingga Ogos depan.

“Fasa kedua ini melibatkan warga emas dan golongan rentan

berusia 60 tahun ke atas, yang ada masalah morbiditi seperti penyakit jantung, obesiti, diabetes dan tekanan darah tinggi selain golongan orang kelainan upaya (OKU).”

“Baki penerima vaksin dalam fasa ketiga merupakan golongan dewasa berumur 18 tahun ke atas yang akan bermula dari bulan Mei depan hingga Februari 2022. Fasa ini penting untuk membentuk perlindungan kelompok dan seterusnya mengawal pandemik ini secara menyeluruh,” katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian semasa menyampaikan perutusan khas penjelasan pelaksanaan Proklamasi Darurat dan Pemasysaran Ordinan Darurat dalam mengurus pandemik Covid-19 di saluran televisyen semalam.

Muhyiddin berkata, Jemaah Menteri bersetuju melantik Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar

sebagai Menteri Penyelaras Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan bagi memastikan program imunisasi itu dilaksanakan secara teratur.

“Beliau akan ketua satu Pasukan Petugas Khas yang menguruskan pelaksanaan Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan khususnya isu-isu berkaitan logistik dan penyelarasan dengan negeri-negeri dan agensi-agensi kerajaan,” jelasnya.

Muhyiddin berkata, lebih 600 pusat simpanan yang juga pusat pemberian vaksin akan dibuka di seluruh negara bagi memastikan program itu berjalan dengan lancar, teratur serta memudahkan orang ramai.

“Maklumat lanjut mengenai Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan termasuklah mengenai tatacara pendaftaran, lokasi pusat pemberian vaksin serta informasi lain yang berkaitan akan dimaklumkan nanti,” ujarnya.



AKHBAR : KOSMO  
 MUKA SURAT : 4  
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

Sambutan Tahun Baru Cina, pasar malam dan pusat cuci kereta turut dibenar

# Kedai gunting rambut boleh operasi

Oleh RASDAN AHMAD

**PETALING JAYA** - Kedai gunting rambut, pasar malam dan pusat cuci kereta dibenarkan beroperasi bermula hari ini, namun perlu mengikut prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ditetapkan kerajaan.

Menteri Kanan Keselamatan, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, bagi kedai gunting rambut, hanya perkhidmatan memotong rambut sahaja yang dibenarkan, aktiviti-aktiviti lain masih tidak dibenarkan.

"Hanya potong rambut sahaja dibenarkan, khidmat cuci muka dan khidmat lain tidak dibenarkan dengan SOP yang ditetapkan antaranya pelitup muka dan apron yang dipakai oleh petugas hanya khas untuk seorang pelanggan iaitu pakai buang.

"Manakala bagi pusat cuci kereta perkhidmatan hanya dibenarkan sehingga pukul 10 malam sahaja," jelasnya pada sidang akhbar khas semalam.



**KERAJAAN** membenarkan beberapa sektor perniagaan beroperasi selepas mendengar keluhan orang ramai. - PUQTRA HAIRRY ROSLI

Dalam pada itu, bagi pasar malam pula, pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) akan mengumumkan langkah-langkah serta SOP yang akan ditetapkan terhadap

kebenaran itu sama ada menghadkan pengujung atau yang sepatutnya.

Dalam perkembangan sama, sambutan Tahun Baru Cina ha-

## COVID-19

Angka terkini kes Covid-19 di Malaysia sehingga semalam

	Jumlah
Kes baharu import	4,571
Tempatan	3
<b>Jumlah</b>	<b>4,568</b>
Kematian	17
Masih dirawat	48,771
Jumlah kes sembuh	181,886
Jumlah kematian	826
<b>Jumlah kes keseluruhan</b>	<b>231,483</b>

lakukan oleh ahli keluarga yang tinggal serumah sahaja bagi mengelakkan pergaulan orang luar yang dibimbangi mempunyai gejala Covid-19.

"Sambutan Tahun Baru Cina tetap dibenarkan, namun mengikut SOP yang ditetapkan kerajaan seperti mana yang dilakukan ketika Hari Raya Aidilfitri dan Deepavali sebelum ini.

"Aktiviti makan besar juga hanya dibenarkan antara ahli keluarga yang tinggal serumah, manakala upacara sembahyang di tokong hanya dibenarkan untuk lima orang ahli jawatankuasa tokong sahaja," jelasnya.

Tambahnya, aktiviti kebudayaan yang biasa dilakukan sebelum ini antaranya tarian singa, tarian naga dan perarakan sama sekali tidak dibenarkan.

"Aktiviti ziarah dan rentas negeri juga tetap tidak dibenarkan di seluruh negara, manakala di Sarawak (aktiviti ziarah) akan diputuskan oleh kerajaan negeri," jelasnya.

# Bayi empat bulan antara 17 korban Covid-19

**PUTRAJAYA** - Bayi lelaki berusia empat bulan dengan latar belakang penyakit jantung yang meninggal dunia di Hospital Tawau, Sabah antara 17 kes kematian baharu Covid-19 dilaporkan semalam.

Kesemua kes kematian baharu direkodkan di Selangor, Sabah, Sarawak, Johor, Pahang, Kelantan, Melaka dan Negeri Sembilan membabitkan 15 lelaki dan dua wanita dengan termuda adalah bayi tersebut dan tertua berusia 82 tahun menjadikan 826 kes kematian terkini di Malaysia.

Dalam masa sama, sebanyak 4,571 kes harlan dilaporkan semalam, dengan Selangor kekal kes baharu tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 2,088 kes, diikuti oleh Johor sebanyak 664 kes dan Kuala Lumpur sebanyak 481 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, sebanyak 90 kluster melaporkan pertambahan kes dengan peningkatan tertinggi melibatkan Kluster Persiaran Perkilangan (362 kes), Kluster Industri Serkam (201 kes) dan Kluster Jalan Perindustrian (180 kes).

Menurutnya, sebanyak 10 kluster baharu dikenal pasti iaitu enam daripadanya kluster berkaitan tempat kerja melibatkan Kluster Jalan Industri Rawang di Gombak, Selangor dengan 23 kes sarlingan bersasar

sebuah kilang di Rawang Integrated Industrial Park.

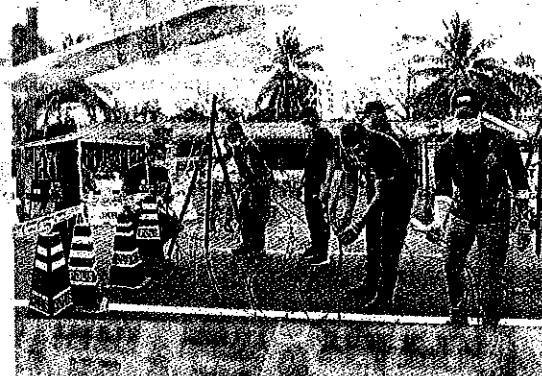
"Kluster Jalan Gombak pula di Gombak, Sepang, Petaling dan Hulu Langat serta daerah Cheras, Kuala Lumpur dengan 41 kes iaitu kes indeks bergejala serta melibatkan pelajar dan petugas kesihatan sebuah pusat pengajian tinggi di Jalan Gombak.

"Kluster Jalan Jasmine di Hulu Selangor membabitkan 31 kes di Jalan Jasmine, Kawasan Perindustrian Bukit Beruntung, Hulu Selangor serta Kluster Parit Penyengat di Muar, Johor dengan 34 kes sebuah kilang iaitu asrama pekerja di Lot Parit Penyengat Darat, Muar," katanya dalam satu kenyataan akhbar di sini semalam.

Bellau berkata, Kluster Jalan Pengiran pula di Matu, Sarawak dengan 20 kes iaitu kes indeks bergejala, manakala kluster ini melibatkan kakitangan sebuah pusat pentadbiran awam di Jalan Pengiran, Matu.

"Selain itu, Kluster Permata Safi di Seremban, Negeri Sembilan dengan 31 kes hasil saringan bersasar sebuah kilang di Jalan Permata 1, Arab Malaysian Industrial Park, Nilai, Seremban," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Noor Hisham berkata, empat lagi kluster komuniti ialah Kluster Kampung Lukut di Kota Tinggi, Johor membabit-



**ANGGOTA** polis memasang kawat duri di Felda Tersat, Ajil yang dikenakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Diperketatkan berkuat kuasa semalam.

kan 15 kes iaitu kes indeks bergejala serta nama kluster merujuk lokaliti kediaman kes indeks di Kampung Lukut, Kota Tinggi.

"Kluster Jalan Jelutong juga di Kota Tinggi membabitkan tujuh kes iaitu kes indeks bergejala, manakala nama kluster merujuk lokaliti tempat kerja kes indeks di Jalani Jelutong, Taman Desaru Utama, Bandar Penawar, Kota Tinggi.

"Seterusnya, Kluster Rantau Tanjung di Maran, Pahang dengan 14 kes iaitu kes indeks bergejala dan kluster ini melibat-

kan sebuah majlis sosial yang dihadiri kes indeks.

Nama kluster merujuk lokaliti kes-kes telah dilaporkan berlaku.

"Kluster Kampung Pulau Jawa pula di Pekan melibatkan 16 kes dengan kes indeks bergejala, manakala nama kluster merujuk lokaliti kes-kes dalam kluster ini di Kampung Pulau Jawa, Pekan," ujarnya.

Sementara itu, katanya, satu lagi kluster tamat semalam iaitu Kluster Desa Setapak menjadikannya sebanyak 440 kluster ditamatkan sehingga kini.

# Kapasiti jemaah solat ditambah

**PUTRAJAYA** - Jabatan Agama Islam Wilayah Persekutuan (Jawi) mendapat perkenan Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah bagi membenarkan perluasan kapasiti jemaah untuk solat Jumaat dan solat fardu di masjid dan surau di seluruh Wilayah Persekutuan.

Perkenan itu membabitkan masjid, surau Jumaat dan surau di Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya dan Labuan berkuat kuasa hari ini.

Jawi memaklumkan, jemaah bagi solat Jumaat diperluaskan kepada separuh daripada kapasiti sebenar masjid dan surau Jumaat dengan penjarakan fizikal 1.5 meter.

"Ketetapan sama turut diberikan kepada jemaah solat fardu lima waktu iaitu separuh daripada kapasiti dewan solat, masjid, surau Jumaat dan surau dengan penjarakan fizikal 1.5 meter.

"Selain itu, aktiviti tazkiroh sebelum solat Jumaat juga dibenarkan diadakan selama 30 minit," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

**KEDAH 51**

Kota Setar	4
Kuala Muda	24
Baling	9
Kulim	13

**PULAU PINANG 157**

Seberang Perai	63
Timur Laut	32
Barat Daya	61

**PERAK 163**

Kinta	14
Manjung	9
Selama	91

**SELANGOR 2,056**

Hulu Langat	343
Petaling	1,203
Klang	236
Kuala Langat	39
Sepang	70



**KELANTAN 48**

Kota Bharu	6
Bachok	6
Kuala Krai	7
Pasir Mas	4

**TERENGGANU 69**

Besut	21
Dungun	19
Kuala Terengganu	2
Hulu Terengganu	11
Kemaman	3

**JOHOR 664**

Johor Bahru	168
Muar	46
Kota Tinggi	54
Kulai	175

# Taburan kes pada 4 Februari

JUMLAH KESELURUHAN  
**231,483**  
SEMBUH  
**181,886**

**PAHANG 78**

Kuantan	22
Bentong	40
Temerloh	3
Pekan	4
Rompini	1

## Total lock down lumpuhkan ekonomi

Oleh MAISARAH SHEIKH RAHIM  
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**PUTRAJAYA:** Kerajaan tidak akan melaksanakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) sepenuhnya atau *total lock down* kerana akan memberi kesan amat negatif terhadap ekonomi negara dan kehidupan rakyat walaupun ia merupakan kaedah paling berkesan untuk memutuskan rantaian jangkitan Covid-19.

Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin berkata, jika berbuat demikian, banyak kilang terpaksa ditutup, perniagaan gulung tikar, perusahaan lumpuh dan rakyat akan hilang pekerjaan serta mata pencarian sekali gus menjejaskan teruk kehidupan rakyat.

Bagaimanapun, kata beliau, jika pergerakan rakyat tidak dikawal, rantaian jangkitan wabak tidak dapat diputuskan, kes-kes akan terus meningkat, hospital-hospital di negara ini tidak dapat menampung kes-kes baharu yang semakin bertambah men-

dadak, sistem kesihatan awam akan lumpuh dan nyawa rakyat akan terancam.

"Jadi, dalam situasi pandemik pada masa ini, kerajaan perlu mencari satu keadaan yang berimbang, iaitu memastikan kehidupan ekonomi rakyat terus terjamin dan nyawa rakyat terus dilindungi."

"Kaedah yang terbaik pada masa ini ialah membenarkan sektor-sektor ekonomi perlu untuk terus beroperasi dan pada masa sama melaksanakan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) ketat untuk memutuskan rantaian jangkitan yang sudah pun berada di tempat kerja, kawasan kediaman dan dalam komuniti kita," katanya dalam perutusan khas hari ini.

Beliau berkata, pelaksanaan PKP telah menghasilkan kesan positif di beberapa negeri seperti Kelantan, Kedah, Terengganu dan Pahang yang mula menunjukkan trend jumlah kes harian baharu semakin melandai.

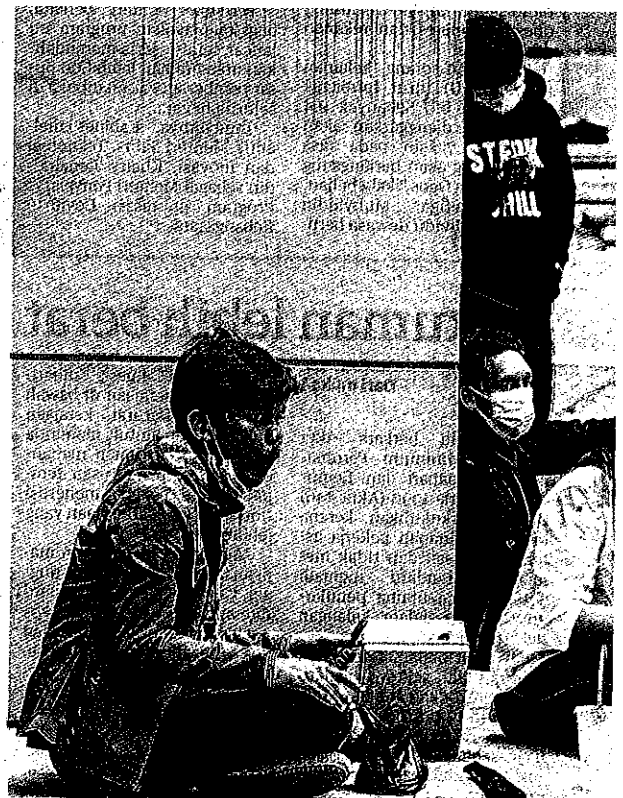
Namun begitu, katanya,

pehinggatan kes masih berlaku terutamanya di Selangor, Kuala Lumpur dan Johor yang merupakan negeri berkepadatan tinggi di samping mempunyai kegiatan ekonomi dan industri yang rancak.

Katanya, walaupun kerajaan tidak melaksanakan *lock down*, pergerakan orang ramai dapat dikurangkan tetapi ekonomi dan industri dapat terus beroperasi.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, penekanan kepada aspek pematuh SOP di kilang-kilang, tapak-tapak pembinaan, tempat penginapan pekerja dan di tempat kerja perlu dilakukan kerana jangkitan dalam gelombang ketiga ini banyak berlaku di tempat-tempat tersebut.

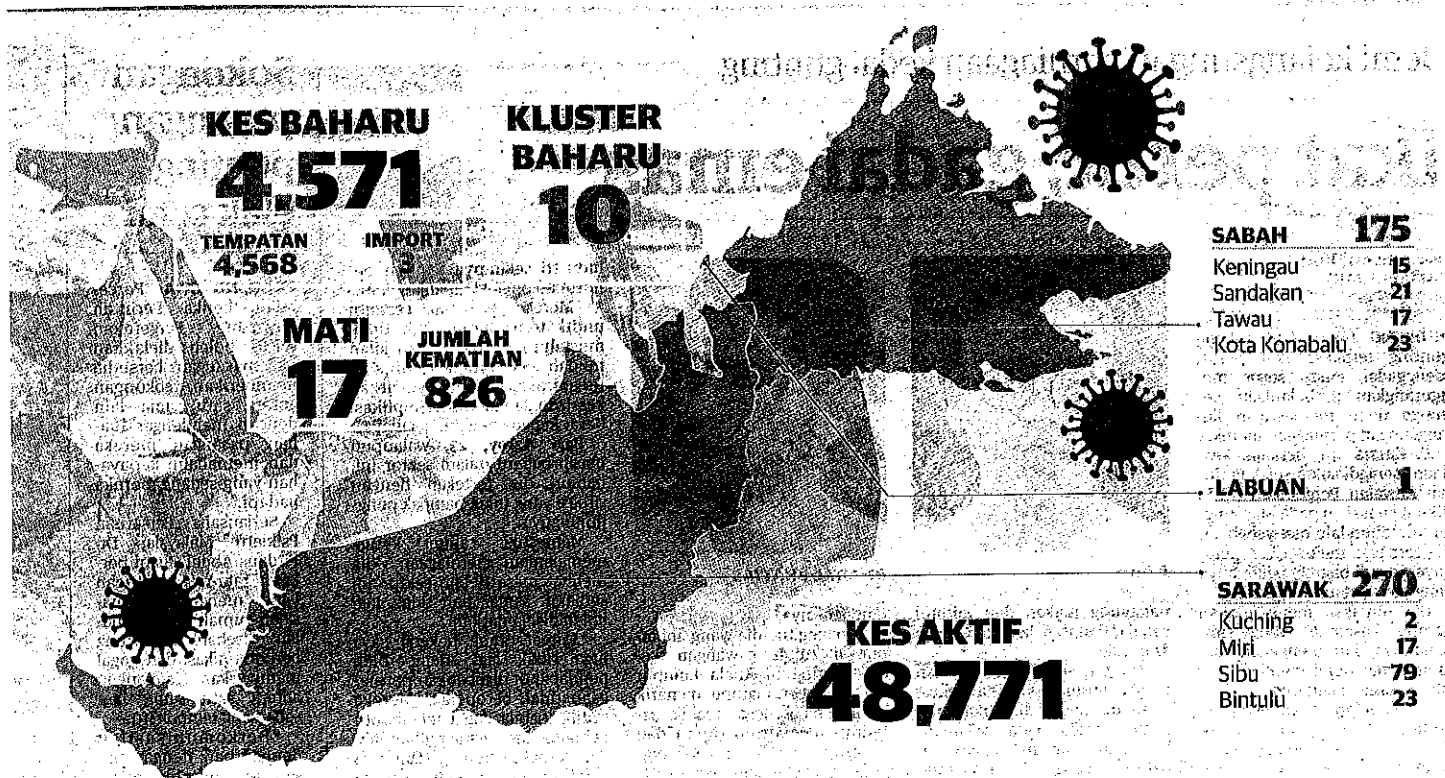
Menurut beliau, data terkini menunjukkan 59 peratus jangkitan berlaku di tempat kerja, 19 peratus di pusat tahanan, 14 peratus di kediaman, 5 peratus di rumah ibadat atau aktiviti keagamaan dan masing-masing 2 peratus kes import dan kumpulan berisiko.



AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI



**BEBERAPA** pekerja di sekitar Jalan Raja Chulan, Kuala Lumpur menikmati makan tengah hari di pekarangan bangunan pejabat berikutan larangan makan di restoran dikuatkuasakan sepanjang Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP). — UTUSAN/AMIR KHALID

## SOP ketat 3 sektor, Tahun Baharu Cina

**PUTRAJAYA:** Kerajaan bersetuju membenarkan pasar malam, kedai gunting rambut dan premis cuci kereta di seluruh negara kembali beroperasi berkuat kuasa hari ini.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, perkara itu diputuskan setelah penilaian risiko dilakukan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan dan tiada kluster baharu daripada aktiviti ketiga-tiga perniagaan tersebut.

Bagaimanapun, Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) menetapkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang amat ketat untuk petugas dan pelanggan dalam sektor berkenaan.

Pasar malam akan dibenar beroperasi dari pukul 4 petang hingga 10 malam dengan jarak antara gerai ditetapkan paling minimum satu meter serta lauan keluar masuk berbeza.

Setiap akses ke tapak pasar itu dikawal Jabatan Sukarelawan Malaysia (Rela) dan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) boleh menghadkan jumlah pengunjung dalam satu masa.

“Operasi kedai gunting atau salon rambut serta tempat cuci kereta juga boleh dibuka hingga pukul 10 malam.”

Bagi kedai gunting rambut, hanya aktiviti menggunting rambut dibenarkan dengan petugas wajib memakai pelitup dan penutup muka serta apion pakai buang bagi pelanggan berbeza.

“Mereka juga diwajibkan memakai sarung tangan selain peralatan gunting dan sikat digunakan mestilah dicuci dengan air panas untuk setiap pelanggan,” katanya.

Sementara itu, sempena Tahun Baharu Cina minggu depan, Ismail Sabri berkata, persembahan tari singa dan naga tidak dibenarkan.

Selain tarikan itu, perarakan tahtlung, chingay, persembahan opera Cina atau pertunjukan pentas juga adalah tidak dibenarkan,” katanya semalam.

Beliau berkata, aktiviti majlis makan besar bersama anggota keluarga pula hanya dibenarkan dalam kalangan ahli keluarga rumah yang sama.



AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

## Harga murah: Hospital swasta henti ujian saringan

Oleh MOHD. FADHLI  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Institusi kesihatan swasta di seluruh negara berkemungkinan menghentikan perkhidmatan ujian saringan Covid-19 sekiranya kerajaan menetapkan harga yang tidak berpatutan atau tidak dipersetujui mereka.

Ini berikutan hospital dan klinik swasta perlu mempertimbangkan kos-kos operasi melibatkan makmal, sewa bari-

gunan, gaji kakitangan dan peralatan perubatan sekali gus mengelakkan kerugian pada masa akan datang.

Menyatakan kebimbangan itu, Presiden Persatuan Hospital Swasta Malaysia (APHM), Datuk Dr. Kuljit Singh menyaran agar kerajaan berunding bersama pihak swasta sebelum mencapai konsensus tentang tetapan harga bagi kedua-dua ujian saringan *Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)* dan Kit Ujian Pantas (RTK) Antigen.

"Saya bimbang mungkin hos-

pital dan klinik swasta mengalami kesukaran dan seterusnya berhenti daripada menjalankan ujian saringan tersebut.

"Setakat ini, belum ada apa-apa maklumat atau panggilan dari kerajaan untuk berunding bagaimanapun, kami terbuka untuk berunding. Kerajaan akan tampil dengan cadangan harga dan APHM juga akan cadangkan harga yang munasabah.

"Kami berusaha untuk memberikan yang terbaik pada masa sama memastikan kelangsungan perkhidmatan. Justeru, kami

mahu kerajaan faham situasi begitu juga sebaliknya. Biar kedua-dua pihak dalam situasi menang-menang," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* di sini semalam.

Kelmarin, Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) selaras di bawah Ordinan Darurat (Kuasa-Kuasa Perlu) 2021 akan menetapkan harga ujian saringan Covid-19 di hospital dan klinik swasta dalam tempoh terdekat.

Harga bagi ujian RT-PCR dan RTK-Ag di pusat rawatan kerajaan bagi warganegara masing-

masing, berharga RM150 dan RM60 manakala bukan warganegara, berharga RM250 dan RM120.

Dalam laporan eksklusif *Utusan Malaysia* sebelum ini mendedahkan, terdapat hospital dan klinik swasta didakwa mengenakan harga mencecah hampir RM1,000 termasuk caj-  
caj tersembunyi.

Malah kakitangan swasta yang menjalankan perkhidmatan berkenaan didapati tidak mengikut prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ketat.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

## Vaksin berasaskan mRNA adalah selamat

SHAH ALAM - Young Scientists Network, Akademi Sains Malaysia (YSN-ASM) memaklumkan vaksin berasaskan messenger RNA (mRNA atau MRNA) selamat untuk digunakan. YSN-ASM dalam kenyataan pada Selasa memaklumkan vaksin mRNA Covid-19 telah melalui pelbagai ujian makmal dan ujian haiwan yang ketat dan diikuti kajian klinikal menyeluruh.

Untuk memastikan keselamatan dan keberkesanan vaksin ini, percubaan berskala besar dijalankan di mana melibatkan peserta berjumlah 10 kali ganda lebih besar daripada ujian klinikal berskala biasa yang mana terdiri daripada pelbagai peringkat umur dan bangsa.

"Kesan sampingan vaksinasi sama ada dengan vaksin tradisional atau vaksin mRNA telah dilaporkan secara mendalam dan boleh didapati secara dalam talian.

"Kesan sampingan vaksin

Covid-19 mRNA juga telah dilaporkan secara telus oleh pengeluar vaksin terlibat," kata kenyataan itu menegulus kebimbangan masyarakat terhadap vaksin yang berasaskan mRNA.

Menurut kenyataan itu, telah diketahui bahawa beberapa individu menerima vaksin mRNA boleh mengalami kesan seperti kesakitan sampingan, jengam bengkak, demam atau dan mengigiti kesakitan.

Walaupun bagaimanapun, YSN-ASM berkata, kesan sampingan itu bersifat sementara, tidak berbahaya dan ia terbukti hilang dalam tempoh sewajarnya.

Bagi kes-kes berprofil tinggi melibatkan kematian dan kesan sampingan yang lebih serius dilaporkan selepas mengambil vaksin Pfizer mRNA, terdapat penjelasan terperinci bagi kebanyakan kes tersebut.

"Kesemua penjelasan menunjukkan kes-kes tersebut tidak berkaitan dengan pengambilan vaksin," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

# 17 maut, termasuk bayi empat bulan

Menjadi pesakit remaja yang meninggal dunia akibat pandemik ini disebarkan.

Oleh TUAN BUOHAI RAHMAN MUHAMAD DAN PUTRI AJAYA

**S**eorang bayi lelaki berusia empat bulan antara 17 yang maut akibat Covid-19. Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, bayi berkenaan meninggal dunia di Hospital Tawau, Sabah. Bayi itu merupakan pesakit positif Covid-19 yang didaftarkan pada nombor kes 16,703. Juga mempunyai penyakit jantung berdebu, katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini pada Khamis.

Kematian itu sekali gus menjadikan bayi berkenaan pesakit remaja yang meninggal

dunia akibat Covid-19 di negara ini. Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, 17 kes kematian yang dilaporkan semalam melibatkannya 15 kes kematian dalam kalangan warga negara dan dua warga asing. Semalam, beliau memaklumkan jumlah kes baharu Covid-19 dilaporkan semalam adalah sebanyak 4,571 kes menandakan jumlah kumulatifnya

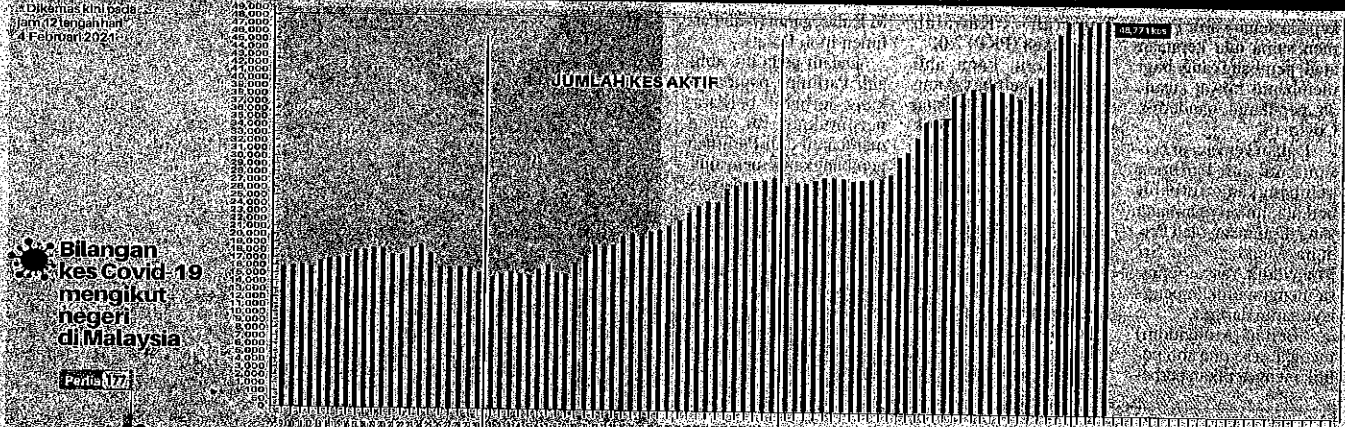


DR. NOOR HISHAM

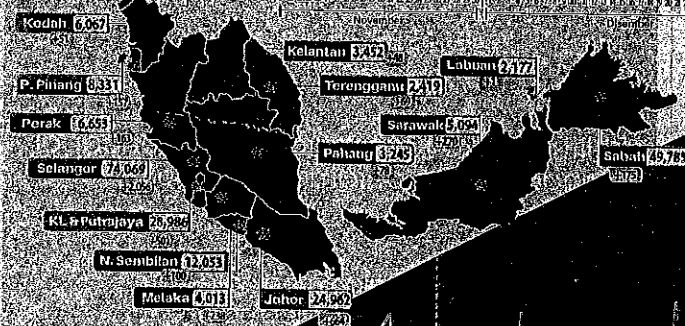
adalah 231,483 kes dengan jumlah kes aktif adalah sebanyak 181,886 kes. Beliau berkata, Selangor kekal menjadi negeri dengan jumlah kes tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 2,056 kes. Beliau berkata, jumlah kes aktif yang dilaporkan di lapangan terbang dan di pusat-pusat awam yang aktif dijalankan di lapangan terbang. Sebanyak 308 kes dirawat di unit rawatan rapi (ICU) termasuk 135 dampaknya

memerlukan bantuan pernafasan, katanya. Dalam pada itu, Dr. Noor Hisham berkata, kes sembuh yang dilaporkan pula adalah sebanyak 4,092 kes menjadikan keseluruhan kes pulih adalah 181,886 kes. Beliau berkata, sebanyak 10 kluster baharu dikenal pasti yang melibatkan enam kluster berkaitan tempat kerja dan empat kluster komuniti. Sehingga kini, sebanyak 861 kluster dilaporkan dan 440 telah diisytiharkan tamat manakala jumlah kluster aktif adalah 421. Kita, Dr. Noor Hisham.

## SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA

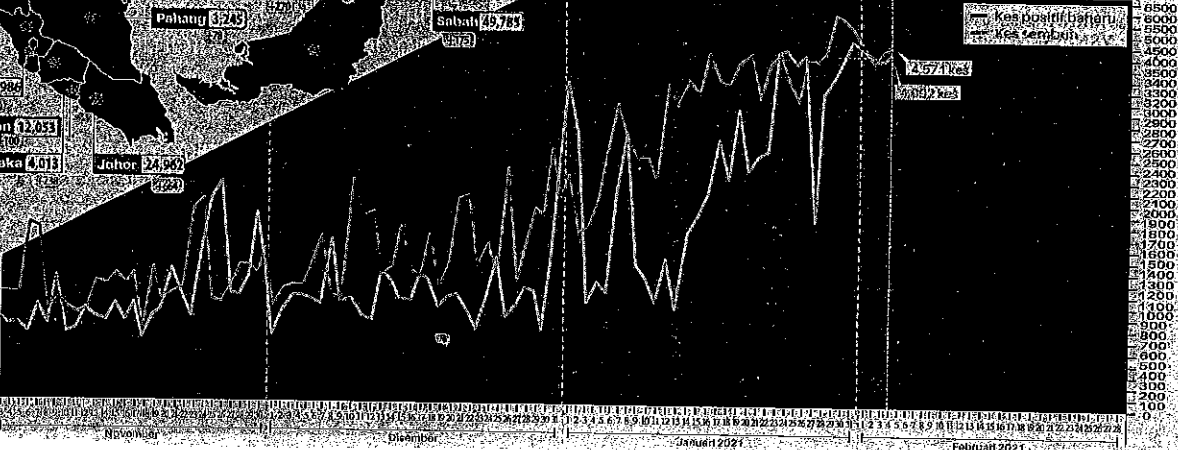


**Bilangan Kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia**



JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI				
JUMLAH KESELURUHAN:	PULIH:	ICU:	KEMATIAN:	KES BAHARU:
231,483	181,886	308	826	4,571

Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada 226,912 kes kepada 231,483 kes



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



Fire and Rescue Department personnel carrying out sanitisation at a residential area in Lembah Subang, Selangor, yesterday. Malaysia's healthcare facilities have reached a breaking point due to the huge increase in cases. (Inset) Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin speaking in a special address yesterday. PIC BY BERNAMA AND RTM FACEBOOK PAGE

signers and in Covid-19 prevention operations," he said.  
 Muhyiddin said he also instructed the People's Volunteer Corps (Rela), with more than three million personnel nationwide, to assist in the enforcement of Covid-19 SOP compliance at business and public places.

The government, he added, would conduct a Community Empowerment Programme with local leaders in Covid-19 prevention campaigns.

Muhyiddin also gave an assurance that the implementation of a total lockdown would not be repeated, adding that the best method was to allow certain economic sectors to continue operating while ensuring that they adhered to SOPs to stem infections at workplaces, at residential areas and in the community.

On this, he said the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act 1990, or Act 446, was in the process of being amended to tackle the issue of foreign workers living in cramped and crowded accommodation, which had led to the spread of Covid-19.

Up to Feb 3, the manufacturing sector logged the highest number of clusters with 128, followed by construction with 82 and the services sector with 61.

"Employers must provide accommodation that meets the minimum standard. Employers must also bear the cost of accommodation, relocation and costs of health screenings while monitoring the workers while they are at work and after work at their accommodation," said Muhyiddin.

He explained that the Human Resources Ministry would lead the Workers Accommodation Management Task Force that would be empowered through the amendment of the act.

The Emergency Ordinance (Essential Powers) 2021, also enabled the government to mobilise human resources, assets and public sector services to assist ministries and agencies in managing the pandemic.

Muhyiddin said 20,000 civil

servants would be involved in the initiative, mainly to help frontliners in health and non-health agencies during the pandemic.

The initiative, which did not bring additional operation cost to the government, is handled by the Public Service Department.

## To fight cancer, Muhyiddin urges all to go for check-ups

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday urged the people to go for regular health check-ups to ensure the early detection of cancer.

He said aside from comprehensive treatment, early detection would raise the probability of patients being cured from cancer.

"This is why early detection is important and what is more critical is to get immediate treatment once you are confirmed to have cancer. Don't be afraid and don't delay."

"As a cancer survivor, I can relate with the difficulty experienced as one fights the disease."

"Alhamdulillah (praise to Allah), after undergoing the treatment, I have been given a clean bill of health."

"Whatever illnesses one is facing, if detected and treated early, insya-Allah (God willing) it can be treated," said the prime minister in a Facebook posting, which had garnered

more than 6,000 likes up to 6pm.

Muhyiddin also said family support and encouragement had boosted his resolve to face and deal with the disease.

"If you are fighting against cancer, you must be strong and keep in mind that you are not alone."

"I know many of those with chronic illnesses, including cancer (patients), who have survived and led a normal life nowadays," he said.

In conjunction with World Cancer Day, Muhyiddin also called on the people to play their part to prevent and contain the disease.

Observed on Feb 4 annually, this year's World Cancer Day theme is "I am and I will".

World Cancer Day was first established at the World Summit Against Cancer for the New Millennium in Paris, and the "Charter of Paris Against Cancer" was signed on Feb 4, 2000.

>> See also Page 7

## Vaccinations to start from month-end

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government will roll out the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme at the end of the month, where 80 per cent of the nation's population will be inoculated in the biggest ever vaccination exercise in the country.

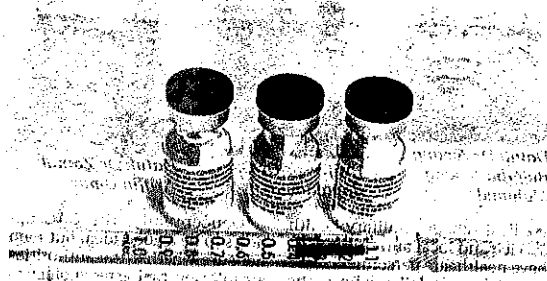
Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, in a special address yesterday, said that 80 per cent of the population or 26.5 million people will be vaccinated and it will be given to Malaysians for free.

"The vaccine is one of our main rays of hope in our war against Covid-19. The government has successfully procured the supplies and the first batch is scheduled to arrive this month."

"The first batch of Covid-19 vaccines are produced by Pfizer and BioNTech, which have shown a high effective rate of 95 per cent," he said.

Muhyiddin said the programme was divided into three phases, where the first would involve 500,000 health and non-health frontliners, which is scheduled until the end of April.

The second phase from April until August this year will cater for those at risk of contracting the virus, such as senior citizens, the disabled and people with under-



Vials for the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine and a syringe is seen at the vaccination centre in Freising, southern Germany. The first batch of Covid-19 vaccines for Malaysia is produced by Pfizer and BioNTech. AFP/IC

lying health conditions.

"The last phase, said Muhyiddin, would see those aged 18 and above receiving their doses."

"The third phase will start from May this year up to February next year (2022)."

"This phase is vital to achieve herd immunity, which will enable us to contain the pandemic holistically," he said.

To ensure that the programme proceeds smoothly, Muhyiddin said over 600 storage centres, as well as vaccination centres,

would be opened nationwide to allow the authorities to use public and private healthcare facilities, stadiums, convention centres, multi-purpose halls and universities as vaccination centres.

He said provisions in the Emergency Ordinance (Essential Powers) 2021 enabled the government to temporarily take over halls and other facilities for the purpose of conducting the programme.

"This is the largest vaccination programme ever conducted in our country."

"Therefore, I urge and ask all Malaysians to put our energy and resources we have to make this programme a success."

"You can contribute medically and non-medically, especially at the vaccination centres to make this a success."

"We are all in this together and only together can we win. Protect ourselves, protect everyone," he said, adding that the government welcomed the participation of volunteers, university students, religious scholars, non-governmental bodies, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, St John's Ambulance, private sectors and all Malaysians.

Muhyiddin also announced the appointment of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) Minister Khairy Jamaluddin as the programme's coordinating minister.

Muhyiddin said Khairy would lead a special task force which would manage the programme, especially in terms of logistics and coordination between states and government agencies.

"This will enable the Health Ministry to continue to focus on the functions of healthcare services in tackling the Covid-19 transmission, which is showing a worrying trend."

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

## HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

## 'EXPECT MORE CASES IN COMING WEEKS'

Lack of resources leaves patients, close contacts to fend for themselves, raising risk of greater spread, say experts

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**T**HE healthcare system is being stretched thin due to an influx of new Covid-19 patients and increase in the number of close contacts.

Medical experts said this posed a serious risk as the lack of resources had left patients and close contacts, who could be potential carriers, to themselves for days with no contact from district health offices.

They said if the Health Ministry failed to address these shortcomings, Malaysia could expect to see more cases in the coming weeks, dampening efforts to contain the virus.

Epidemiologist Datuk Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud said that besides Covid-19 patients, close contacts should be immediately identified and informed of the procedures, instead of leaving them in limbo.

"By night, the Health Ministry should be doing this; but given the number of infected persons, I am unsure whether this is properly done now."

"They need to follow procedures set out for close contacts and their own contacts need to be informed too."

"If there is a long delay in informing patients, they would have been in contact with many people and spread the infection further."

"Not everyone can be trusted to do the right thing or understand what home quarantine means. This will mean that it will be even more difficult to manage this pandemic as this is a vicious cycle," he told the *New Straits Times*.

He said that to help district Health offices that may be overburdened, the government could rope in private practitioners to monitor patients.

"I am sure that if the government empowered and compensated them, they would be willing to help."

Other agencies that can be roped in are university hospitals,



A man wearing a face mask leaving a shop in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC



Datuk Dr Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud



Professor Dr G. Jayakumar



Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar

medical schools, military health service and local authorities that have healthcare personnel.

Dr Awang Bulgiba, who is the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry's head of the Independent Covid-19 Vaccination Advisory Committee, said improvements could be made to procedures for the home quarantine order.

These, he said, would include the need to identify and inform patients and their close contacts of the protocols and their status in a seamless manner, such as through an automated system linked to the Covid-19 Assessment Centre (CAC).

Besides that, he said, patient monitoring could be automated via an app instead of the manual method being used, and wristbands with tracking technology should be used to ensure strict compliance with home quarantine orders.

"Conceptually, the CAC appears to be a good idea, but I am not sure whether the authorities are fully leveraging technology to do their work."

"Monitoring can be done via apps like the CosMos app developed for Universiti Malaya Medical Centre's home surveillance or other apps designed for this."

"This will reduce the manual checking practised by the Health Ministry."

He said advice through an app could be given by an AI-driven system, which could provide answers to common enquiries, thereby reducing the workload of CAC personnel.

"The use of tracking technology can reduce the manual surveillance of patients undergoing home quarantine."

"In Hong Kong, for instance, a tracking bracelet is used, and it is paired to one's mobile phone."

"Taiwan uses a different ap-

proach, which triangulates one's mobile phone signal supplemented by the M-Police system, which checks whether quarantined people are in the vicinity."

"South Korea uses a person's mobile phone GPS location to geo-fence him; while Poland uses an app that compels one to take geolocated selfies."

Melaka Manipal Medical College's Community and Occupational Medicine Professor Dr G. Jayakumar said there was an urgent need to open more CACs, and employ and deploy more public health medicine specialists at these centres.

"When patients are left on their own, he said, the risks will be in delayed contact tracing and letting loose other potential infected patients out in public."

"Patients may also not recover early and suffer from Covid-19 complications."

"Close contacts who are not monitored and left mingling with the public pose a danger as they may be silent carriers disseminating the virus unknowingly."

"Dr Jayakumar said close contacts with symptoms needed to seek immediate medical assistance, while others may be required to do Covid-19 tests and quarantine at home."

"A repeat test at the end of the quarantine period was essential, he said."

"There is an urgent need to implement electronic tagging for

home quarantine orders.

"Consistency in identifying first-level contacts will need to be reiterated at all levels."

He said Malaysia needed to have consistent policies that were evidence-based and relevant to health.

"Communication of standard operating procedures and guidelines had to be undertaken in one voice rather than in a fragmented and confusing manner, he said."

"Enforcement has to be seen as an efficient tool to haul up offenders regardless of one's social standing."

"The Health Ministry has kept granular data on Covid-19 to itself. It is time for the ministry to share this data with other experts and researchers who can complement the efforts."

Malaysian Public Health Physicians Association president Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said that with existing health resources, the authorities could not conduct comprehensive contact tracing and monitoring.

"We can expect to see more cases in the coming weeks. Individuals and communities must try to be self-sufficient. Consult the authorities whenever in doubt."

"Health Ministry personnel should be competent and provide a proper and detailed explanation to patients and close contacts."

"Provide an adequate helpdesk and a 24-hour helpline."



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED.

# NO CNY VISITS THIS YEAR

Same S.O.P applies to reunion dinner and temple prayers, says Ismail Sabri

ADIB POVERA AND NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI  
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**C**HINESE New Year celebrations can be held only at home and are limited to family members living in the same house.

Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the same standard operating procedures (SOP) also applied to the reunion dinner on Chinese New Year's Eve and temple prayers.

"Those celebrating Chinese New Year are encouraged to perform prayers at home," he told a televised press conference yesterday. He said the CNY SOP was for Feb 11 and 12.

Prayers at temples, he said, were limited to five committee members per temple.

Cultural activities, such as lion and dragon dances, as well as opera, were also prohibited, he added.

He said that similar to the SOP for Hari Raya Aidilfitri last year, interstate and interdistrict travel was not allowed during Chinese New Year, which falls on Feb 12 and 13.

Meanwhile, he said, night markets, barbershops, hair salons



A supermarket employee arranging Chinese New Year decorations in Alor Star yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

and car wash services would be allowed to resume operations under strict compliance with the SOP starting today.

"The decision was made following a risk assessment conducted by the Health Ministry, which took into consideration the total number of (Covid-19) clusters involving each sector."

Ismail Sabri said night markets

were allowed to operate from 4pm to 10pm.

The SOP for night markets includes setting a 1m distance between each stall, and separate ways for people to enter and exit the site, he said.

People's Volunteers Corps (PVC) personnel will ensure strict compliance with the SOP.

Asked if there would be a limit

on the number of patrons entering night markets at one time, he said this issue must be discussed between night market operators and local authorities.

Ismail Sabri said barbershops and hair salons were allowed to operate until 10pm, with services limited to haircuts.

"Facials and other services are not allowed. Their staff are re-

quired to wear face shields, and it'd be better if they wore face masks too.

"Operators should allocate a disposable apron for each patron and ensure the equipment used, such as scissors, is sanitised."

Car wash services are allowed to operate until 10pm.

He said in the event that people on a business premises were found positive for Covid-19 or breached the SOP, authorities would close down their operations.

On another issue, he said the MCO Operation Task Force had the authority to enter office buildings to ensure employers complied with work-from-home directives, which allow only 30 per cent of a company's workforce to be in the office.

"I hope there is no need for the authorities to enter offices to check.

"Employers can monitor SOP compliance."

He refuted reports that the government did not have proper planning in place over its decision to extend the MCO beginning today in all states, except Sarawak.

"Last Tuesday, I had announced there were 15 plans, five of which were formulated by the Health Ministry and the rest by the National Security Council."

"It is not true the government did not have proper planning."

He said the government was expected to make an announcement soon on whether it would allow sports and recreational activities, as well as more businesses in the retail sector, to resume operations.

## 45pc of 4,571 new cases came from Selangor

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia recorded 4,571 new Covid-19 cases yesterday, with 45 per cent of them originating from Selangor.

The total number of cases stands at 231,483, including 48,771 active cases.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said three were imported cases.

Selangor logged the highest number of infections at 2,056 cases, followed by Johor (664), Kuala Lumpur (481 cases), Sarawak (270) and Melaka (238).



Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

Perlis is the only state that did not report any new case.

Labuan recorded the least number of new cases, with one case.

The ministry said 4,092 patients had recovered, bringing the total number of recoveries to 181,886.

It said 308 cases were being treated at the Intensive Care Unit, including 135 on respiratory support.

The country reported 17 deaths yesterday, raising the total number of Covid-19 fatalities to 826.

The youngest victim was a 4-

month-old baby with heart disease in Sabah.

Fifteen victims were Malaysians.

Selangor reported four deaths, Sabah and Sarawak each reported three deaths, Johor and Pahang each recorded two deaths, and Melaka, Negri Sembilan and Kelantan each recorded one death.

Thirteen of the 17 victims were above 60, with the oldest being a 82-year-old male in Melaka who had high blood pressure, stroke and heart disease.

Earlier, the ministry, via a tweet, confirmed that the country had recorded 355 Covid-19 fatalities in the first 35 days of this year.

There were 289 deaths last month, and 66 deaths from Feb 1 to yesterday.

Ten new clusters had been identified, bringing the total number of active clusters to 421, Dr Noor Hisham said.

Of the new clusters, six were workplace-linked clusters, while the remaining four were community clusters.

The workplace-related clusters were the Jalan Industri Rawang cluster in Selangor (23 cases); Jalan Gombak cluster involving Selangor and Kuala Lumpur (41); Jalan Jasmine cluster in Selangor (61); Parit Penyengat cluster in Johor (34); Jalan Pengiran cluster in Sarawak (20); and Permata

Satu cluster in Negri Sembilan (31).

The community clusters were the Kampung Lukut (15 cases) and Jalan Jelutong clusters (seven) in Johor, and the Kampung Pulau Jawa (16) and Rantau Tanjung (14) clusters in Pahang.

Dr Noor Hisham said. "Of the total, 90 clusters saw new cases."

"The top three clusters that reported the highest number of infections are the Perisiran Perkilangan cluster (362 cases), Industri Serkam cluster (291 cases) and Jalan Perindustrian cluster (150 cases)."

The Desa Setapak cluster ended yesterday, he said.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

MALAYSIAN HEALTH COALITION

# CALL TO BEEF UP HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Covid-19 data needs transparency to ensure info doesn't cause panic, says group

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**T**HE Malaysian Health Coalition has urged the government to improve the country's healthcare system and avoid the blame game.

In a statement issued yesterday, it said the government must keep the people informed of its long-term plans.

To ensure that these are met, the coalition has outlined several suggestions.

They include providing real context for Covid-19 data to ensure information on the pandem-

ic empowers the people and does not cause panic.

It said the numbers were, however, void of context and did not paint the whole picture.

"After one year, the rakyat is reliant on the data provided daily by the Health Ministry. We cannot know the true extent of the pandemic nor the capacity of our healthcare system from the little information provided.

"We reiterate our call to improve health data transparency."

It also said the government

should embrace continuous improvements of the pandemic management and healthcare systems.

It suggested that the government implement a solutions-based approach of corrective and preventive actions to manage the pandemic, following the recent backlog reported in December last year.

Federal-state and public-private coordination should also be strengthened. After one year, there must be clearer coordina-

tion efforts between federal and state government agencies as well as the public and private sectors.

"We support the public-private partnership between hospitals to manage the influx of Covid-19 patients. The government must not wait until the last moment to broker such collaborations.

"There must be proactive co-operation at all levels of government to ensure all stakeholders are contributing to the national pandemic strategy," it said.



If its vaccine receives an Emergency Use Authorisation from the US Food and Drug Administration, Johnson & Johnson will become the third vaccine producer for the United States after Pfizer and Moderna.

FILE PIC

SINGLE-DOSE VACCINE

## 'We will update govt on Covid-19 vaccine candidate'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Johnson & Johnson will continue updating the government on its latest clinical developments and access for its single-dose vaccine candidate.

This was stated by the company's managing director for Malaysia and Brunei, Chin Keat Chyuan, in a written reply to the *New Straits Times* yesterday.

Johnson & Johnson is committed to bringing an affordable Covid-19 vaccine to the public on a not-for-profit (NFP) basis for emergency pandemic use, pending clinical trials and regulatory authorisations.

"We will continue to update the government on our latest clinical

developments and vaccine access.

"We are in ongoing discussions with many companies, global organisations and other stakeholders as we establish a supply network globally to provide global access of the Janssen Covid-19 vaccine candidate," he said.

Chin added that the World Health Organisation (WHO) considered a single-dose vaccine to be the best option in pandemic settings as it could enhance access, distribution and compliance.

On Jan 29, Johnson & Johnson-owned pharmaceutical firm Janssen announced that its Covid-19 vaccine candidate met

the primary endpoints in the interim analysis of the Phase 3 Ensemble study.

The trial, which involved nearly 44,000 volunteers, found the vaccine to be 66 per cent effective in preventing moderate and severe cases of Covid-19 and the onset of protection could be observed after 14 days.

However, 28 days after vaccination, the level of protection offered by the vaccine against Covid-19 varied across regions, with 72 per cent efficacy in the United States, 66 per cent efficacy in Latin America and 57 per cent efficacy in South Africa.

Nevertheless, the vaccine candidate was 85 per cent effective in

preventing severe disease across all regions studied.

If its vaccine receives an Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Johnson & Johnson will become the third vaccine producer for the United States after Pfizer and Moderna.

Although Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have shown an efficacy of above 90 per cent, both vaccines require two inoculations; a priming dose, followed by a booster shot.

So, researchers are optimistic that Johnson & Johnson's single-shot vaccine can give it a competitive edge in the vaccine race.

By Dheesagan Bala Krishnan

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

## WORLD CANCER DAY

## 'PREVENT CANCER WITH EARLY SCREENING'

Detecting disease at an early stage will have a better chance of recovery, says Health D-G

## KUALA LUMPUR

**T**HE Health Ministry has urged the public to go for early screening for cancer, identify the early signs and symptoms of the disease and avoid detecting it at a late stage for a better chance of recovery.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said early detection, as well as quick and effective treatment, provided patients a good chance to recover.

"The overall percentage of cancer cases detected late (stage 3 and 4) increased from 58.7 per cent between 2001 and 2011 to 63.7 per cent from 2012 to 2016,

"This situation is worrying and needs to be given due attention," he said in a statement in con-

junction with World Cancer Day yesterday.

This year's World Cancer Day, with the theme "I Am and I Will", aims to get the public to support and participate in efforts to prevent and control cancer.

Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry was always committed to encourage the public to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

"The ministry also provides human papilloma virus (HPV) immunisation service for Form One female students to prevent cervical cancer and Hepatitis B immunisation for infants to prevent liver cancer.

"The ministry also provides free screening for breast, colorectal, cervical and mouth cancer nationwide, while at private facilities, a fee will be charged," he said, adding that those who were diagnosed with cancer needed to seek treatment immediately.

He said the ministry was very concerned with the health and wellbeing of cancer patients, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This is because cancer patients have a low immune system

compared with others and are more at risk of getting serious infection," he added.

As such, he said, strict control measures were taken at all health facilities to ensure compliance with standard operating procedures (SOP) during appointments and treatment of cancer patients.

Dr Noor Hisham said cancer was one of the most feared chronic diseases and could have a high negative impact on patients, families and the country, with breast cancer being the most common, at 19 per cent, followed by colorectal or colon cancer (13.5 per cent) and lung cancer (9.8 per cent).

"Among men, colorectal cancer is the most common cancer at 16.9 per cent and among women, it is breast cancer (33.9 per cent)," he added.

He said one-third of deaths due to cancer was associated with, among others, obesity, low intake of fruits and vegetables, poor physical activity, smoking and alcohol consumption.

Smoking is the most important risk factor for cancer and contributes to 22 per cent of deaths due to cancer, he added. **Berhama**



A cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy. Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah says the ministry provides free screening for breast, colorectal, cervical and mouth cancer nationwide. **FILE PIC**

## SALES OF CLOTHES, SHOES

## 'Only NSC can decide on pasar malam appeal'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Concessions for pasar malam operations during the Covid-19 pandemic can only be made by the National Security Council (NSC).

Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa made this clear in a brief reply to the *New Straits Times*.

"The authority is with the NSC, not with us," he said.

Annuar was responding to queries on whether Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) would give traders the green light to sell clothes and shoes.

Checks with DBKL also revealed that the NSC guideline disallows the sale of clothing and shoes during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period.

However, Pertubuhan Penguasaan Pasar Malam Kuala Lumpur secretary Roy James Charles lambasted the limitations, arguing that some hyper-

markets were selling clothes.

He said this contradicted the government's announcement that all sectors of the economy would be open despite the extension of the MCO.

"If they really cannot help us out, then they should compensate each pasar malam trader with at least RM1,000."

Roy said the compensation should be across the board as all night market traders were suffering, including those selling essentials, who resumed business when NSC lifted its ban last week.

NSC lifted the ban on pasar malam on Jan 28 following a two-week campaign by traders to be allowed to operate in areas under the MCO. A total of 49 night markets cleared for operations in KL during the conditional MCO were given the green light to resume business under



People adhering to the standard operating procedures at a 'pasar malam' in Taman Desa, Kuala Lumpur, recently. **FILE PIC**

strict standard operating procedures.

Only the sale of essentials, such as food, were allowed. However, sale of clothes and shoes were disallowed to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Pasar malam traders had earlier cried foul over NSC's move to disallow them from trading, but approving morning markets and other such businesses to open their facilities despite previously shutting them down

during MCO 1.0.

They also noted that food stalls and restaurants had been allowed to extend their trading hours to 10pm, while pasar malam traders were not even given a chance to operate.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NATION

Reports by MARTIN CARVALHO, JO TIMBUONG and RAHIMY RAHIM

# All-out assault on Covid-19

## Largest immunisation plan in nation's history to end the war

PETALING JAYA: The country will embark on its largest ever immunisation effort when the national Covid-19 vaccination programme targeting some 26.5 million Malaysians rolls out at the end this month, says Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"We are targeting as much as 80% of the population or 26.5 million Malaysians to receive the vaccine free of charge," he said in a special live address yesterday.

He said the first batch of vaccines from Pfizer and BioNTech would be arriving soon and described it as a "ray of hope" for the nation in its fight against the virus.

The first phase of the immunisation programme will involve the vaccination of 600,000 medical and non-medical frontliners, which is expected to be completed by April, he said.

The second phase, he added, would involve those in high-risk groups such as those 60 years and above with heart ailments or high blood pressure, were obese or dia-

"We are targeting as much as 80% of the population or 26.5 million Malaysians to receive the vaccine free of charge."

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin

abetic and the disabled.

A total of 9.4 million people from high-risk groups is expected to receive the vaccine under the second phase from April to August, he added.

Muhyiddin said that the third phase would involve the rest, aged 18 and above, with vaccinations to be carried out from May this year to February next year.

The national Covid-19 immuni-

zation programme is the largest vaccination programme ever to be carried out in the country.

"I call on all Malaysians to mobilise available efforts and resources to ensure the success of the programme."

"We are all in this together and only together can we win," he said.

He stressed that the vaccination programme was crucial as it would help the country develop herd immunity, which would bring the pandemic under control.

Muhyiddin added some 600 storage and vaccination centres would be opened nationwide for the programme.

He said that authorities would rely on the Emergency Ordinance 2021 to temporarily use halls and other facilities for the vaccination rollout.

He also promised that more details on the immunisation programme such as registration, location of vaccination centres and related information, would be made known in due time.

Muhyiddin said that Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin has been tasked with overseeing the programme to allow the Health Ministry to focus on healthcare services in fighting the pandemic.

On a separate matter, Muhyiddin said that private hospitals had stepped forward to contribute 1,409 beds to help treat Covid-19 patients, which would ease the pressure on government hospitals, and 1,344 of these beds would be in regular wards and 65 in intensive care units (ICUs).

He added that the Health Ministry also set RM27mil to work with 31 private hospitals to outsource the treatment of non-Covid-19 patients.

Muhyiddin also said that concerted efforts would be made among public and private medical laboratories to increase Covid-19 screening capacity.

Currently, he said 68 government and public laboratories had the capacity to carry out 76,000 Covid-19 tests daily.

## PM shares his journey in fighting cancer battle

KUALA LUMPUR: In conjunction with World Cancer Day, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin called on people from all walks of life to play their part in preventing and fighting the disease by adopting a healthy lifestyle.

In his Facebook post, Muhyiddin, who is a cancer survivor, shared his experience in fighting cancer, saying that he understood the pain and suffering of cancer patients in battling the disease.

"Words of encouragement and support from family members strengthened my spirit to continue to fight and face this disease. *Allhamdulillah*, I am grateful to Allah that after completing the treatment, I was told that I am cancer-free," he wrote.

Muhyiddin said that apart from the comprehensive treatment, early detection and quick action to seek treatment could increase the chances for patients' recovery.

Therefore, the Prime Minister advises the public to do regular health screening tests to avoid late detection of cancer.

"Go for early screening, and most importantly, undergo treatment immediately if you are diagnosed with cancer. Do not be afraid or procrastinate."

"All types of illness, God willing, can be treated well if detected early and treated properly," he said.

In the same post, the Prime Minister also advised Malaysians who are fighting cancer to remain optimistic.

"Many chronic patients including those with cancer whom I know have successfully fought the disease and are now living normal lives."

"If you are battling cancer, strengthen your spirit - you are not alone," he added.

In the post, Muhyiddin also used the hashtag #SayaAkanDanSayaBelen and #IAMAndWill, which is the theme of this year's World Cancer Day. - Bernama





AKHBAR : THE SUN  
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# Sternier measures soon to stem pandemic: PM

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Immediate closure of business premises and stiffer legal action against operators who fail to follow standard operating procedures (SOP) are among measures to be implemented to break the Covid-19 chain.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said these are among the amendments to be made to the Prevention and Control of Diseases Act 1988 (Act 342) being studied by the Emergency Management and Technical Committee to enable faster and sterner action to be taken.

Compliance with SOP at workplaces, workers' accommodation, business premises and factories is important for us to break the Covid-19 chain. Enforcement action must be stepped up to ensure SOP adherence.

The Emergency Management Technical Committee is studying the provisions in Act 342 for six amendments to be made to the Act, he said in a 40-minute special broadcast by major television stations yesterday.

He urged the industry and public to fully comply with the SOP to ensure that businesses and trading can continue.

The government is listening to your views by not shutting down the

► Six amendments to law being studied by committee to enable quick and stringent action against SOP violators

economy during the movement control order (MCO) period. Please reciprocate this gesture by complying strictly with the SOP so that we can ensure businesses and trade can continue to operate, while at the same time help break the chain of Covid-19 transmissions at workplaces and in the community.

Muhyiddin said that a total lockdown will not be imposed as it will have a very negative impact on the economy and lives.

A Special Task Force for Monitoring and Enforcing the MCO, comprising various agencies and ministries, has been set up to monitor compliance with the SOP.

The National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme which is set to roll out at the end of this month is the biggest vaccination effort ever implemented in Malaysia.

Muhyiddin said 80% of the country's population, or about 26.5 million people, are expected to receive the vaccine free of charge.

The vaccine is crucial for us to win the war against Covid-19. The government has managed to secure access to the vaccine and the first shipment of the supply is expected to arrive this month.

The shipment comprises vaccines produced by Pfizer and BioNTech which have shown a very high efficacy rate of 95%.

Muhyiddin reiterated his commitment to dissolve Parliament once the virus situation eases to make way for the 15th general election.

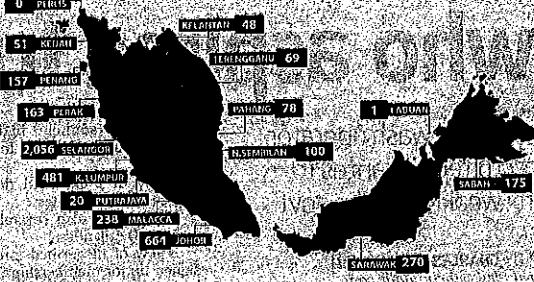
He reminded all parties to stop throwing baseless accusations against the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah for consenting to the emergency proclamation to help the nation curb the spread of Covid-19.

I call on my friends from both the government and opposition blocs to work together and mobilise efforts to fight the pandemic regardless of our political ideologies. — Bernama

## COVID-19 UPDATE



### Breakdown by state



## 'Strategy change needed in Covid-19 war'

BY HAKEM HASSAN  
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**PETALING JAYA:** The high number of Covid-19 cases may be an indication that a change in strategy is needed and the government has to ramp up its efforts to curb the spread.

Kuala MP Teo Nie Ching in a joint statement with general practitioner Dr Goh Aik Ping said the government must be 'proactive' instead of just reacting.

The Health Ministry and National Security Council need to improve contact tracing methods. Lack of efficiency would lead to an uncontrollable spread of the virus.

She suggested a number of ideas to improve the situation, including deploying the armed forces to help with contact tracing, authorising private general practitioners (GPs) to issue quarantine or home surveillance orders as well as developing a standardised database for GPs to use.

Malaysian Medical Association president Prof Datuk Dr M Subramaniam, agreeing with Teo and Goh, said calling in the army to help is an option since the police are overwhelmed.

He said the government should engage the 7,000-odd health Ministry-trained private GPs to help with testing since private GPs are well distributed in the country.

The movement control order was intended to reduce cases to help public hospitals cope but we are seeing the opposite with cases reaching all-time highs, he told the Sun.

The Malaysian Retail Chain Association says it is a difficult balancing act between protecting lives and livelihoods.

Any decision on business operation hours and inter-district travel should ideally be based on assessment of facts and figures. If the risk outweighs the benefits in a high-

risk area, it may be justified to restrict business hours and movement of people, its spokesman said in a statement.

Meanwhile, former deputy defence minister Piew Chin Hong said Covid-19 has exposed Malaysia's political divisions, unwieldy bureaucracy and lack of capacity to deal with the crisis.

In an article on Hong Kong-based news portal South China Morning Post, Piew wrote that Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's administration must ramp up efforts to fight the virus.

Epidemiologist Prof Datuk Dr Awang Buleba Awang Mahmud said the delayed decision by the Health Ministry to allow Covid-19 patients who are asymptomatic or show only mild symptoms to quarantine at home is a little too late.

I warned about preparing for mitigation in October 2020 but little action was taken until it became forced on the Ministry of Health.

Awang Buleba added the ministry is now scrambling to implement this without much planning.

Lew also said the country was not as aggressive as some of its neighbours in trying to procure vaccines.

Malaysia is a little late in its vaccination programme but not too late. But the upside is that we can monitor development of vaccine rollouts in other countries and learn from their mistakes.

Economic Minister Jomo Kwame Sundaram said before and after Budget 2021 was presented, most countries had been making much stronger fiscal efforts in comparison with Malaysia.

Part of the reason is that Malaysian policy-makers seem to be concerned about what credit rating agencies will say about growing debt.

Jomo said almost every country in the world, facing the crisis has to borrow to spend more.



## Rusty chairs at clinic get new coat of paint

BY NICOLAS ANIL  
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**PETALING JAYA:** The Bukie Naga Health Clinic in Shah Alam has received a timely boost as several rusty chairs in its compound have been given a new coat of paint after a patient last week.

The rusty chairs were not only an eyesore, but also posed a health risk to patients who came in for treatment from surrounding areas such as Kota

Kemuning, Bandar Putera and Bukit Rimau.

The metal chairs were in a very bad condition as they were exposed to the sun and rain. The sanitisation process by clinic authorities as part of the Covid-19 protocol also compounded the problem.

After hearing about the issue from the Sun, the Selangor state Health Department acted quickly to rectify the problem. We immediately got several staff

from the Prime Unit to organise a govt. team to the hospital last Saturday which included painting the rusty chairs. We are also planning to add several more chairs, a member of the Selangor state Health Department said.

He said staff at the clinic have their hands full tending to Covid-19 patients as the area is in a red zone. Their focus is on conducting Covid-19 swab tests. Nonetheless, we are grateful to be notified and hopefully now there won't be any more issues.