

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NATION

NST M/S 3 NATION 24/3/2025 (ISNIN)

'INCREASINGLY ALARMING'

'INFLUENCERS SMUGGLING COSMETICS'

IGP says they are promoting products not approved by Health Ministry

KUALA LUMPUR

THE rising trend of influencers and cosmetic entrepreneurs smuggling in untaxed beauty products from Thailand without approval from the Health Ministry is causing concern.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Razarudin Husain said these products, procured in Thailand at low prices, were sold at marked-up rates in the Malaysian market.

"This issue is not new, but it has become increasingly alarming. The General Operations Force (GOF)

has made major seizures of illegally imported beauty and health products," he said.

According to Razarudin, more influencers and traders were exploiting the price gap by smuggling in untaxed products from Thailand.

"Apart from affecting the country's tax revenue, what is more worrying is the risk to consumers, as these products are not inspected or approved by the Health Ministry," he added.

Razarudin said the smugglers used illegal pathways or relied on individuals to bring in small quantities of products to avoid



Tan Sri Razarudin Husain

strict checks at the Malaysia-Thailand border.

He believed a network of suppliers was involved in smuggling the cosmetic products, which would then be sold online or pro-

moted by popular influencers.

"The authorities are tightening border monitoring and will take action against those selling unregistered cosmetic products in the local market," he warned.

In Kelantan, besides cosmetic products, GOF had also seized agricultural produce like coconuts and exotic plants from neighbouring countries, Razarudin said.

On Saturday, Kelantan police chief Datuk Mohd Yusoff Mamat said many cosmetic entrepreneurs and influencers in the state were suspected of involvement in drug distribution and money laundering.

They had been discovered to operate with a complete team and network to carry out these illicit activities.

He said recently identified groups were not run by small-scale dealers, but major ringleaders behind drug trafficking and money-laundering operations.

He added that these individuals were the leaders of syndicates and possessed a complete network or team to manage their activities, from ordering, collecting and delivering drugs to identifying buyers and so on.

"The role of these cosmetic entrepreneurs and influencers is to provide capital. They use intermediaries for drug transactions to ensure they cannot be directly linked to the activities.

"They are highly cunning, employing specific strategies that make it difficult for the police to connect them to these crimes," he said. **Bernama**

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : ARTIKEL

BSH M516 NASIONAL 24/3/2025 (ISNIN)

Pempengaruh jual mahal produk kosmetik seludup dari Thailand

Kota Bharu: Trend pempengaruh dan usahawan kosmetik membeli produk kecantikan dari Thailand tanpa cukai serta tanpa kelulusan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dan Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia yang semakin berleluasa, didorong oleh perbezaan harga yang ketara di pasaran tempatan.

Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri Razarudin Husain, berkata kegiatan itu bukan perkara baharu, malah semakin membimbangkan dengan banyak rampasan besar-besaran dibuat Pasukan Gerakan Am (PGA) membabitkan produk kecantikan dan kesihatan yang dibawa masuk secara haram ke Malaysia.

“Pempengaruh dan peniaga kosmetik ini mengambil kesempatan membeli stok murah dari Thailand tanpa cukai, kemudian dijual dengan harga berkali ganda di Malaysia.

“Selain menjejaskan hasil cukai negara, lebih membimbangkan risiko kepada pengguna kerana produk ini tidak menjalani pemeriksaan dan

kelulusan KKM,” katanya semalam.

Beliau mendedahkan antara taktik yang digunakan ialah membawa masuk produk melalui laluan tikus atau menggunakan individu tertentu untuk menyeludup dalam kuantiti kecil bagi mengelak pemeriksaan ketat di sempadan Malaysia-Thailand.

Razarudin berkata, polis percaya terdapat rangkaian pembekal yang terbabit dalam penyeludupan produk kecantikan dari Thailand itu, sebelum dipasarkan dalam talian atau melalui pempengaruh terkenal.

“Pihak berkuasa kini memperketat pemantauan di sempadan dan akan mengambil tindakan terhadap individu yang menjual produk kosmetik tidak berdaftar di pasaran tempatan,” katanya.

Beliau turut memaklumkan di Kelantan, PGA melakukan pelbagai rampasan termasuk produk kosmetik, hasil pertanian seperti buah kelapa dan tumbuh-tumbuhan yang diseludup masuk dari negara jiran.

BERNAMA

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

THE SUN M/S 6 NATIONAL 24/3/2025 (ISNIN)

Combined efforts needed to tackle tuberculosis

BY DEEPAKSHI MANICKAM
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: To achieve meaningful progress in eradicating tuberculosis (TB), experts stress that Malaysia must dismantle the stigma surrounding the disease.

Hospital Canselor Tuanku Muhriz UKM respiratory medicine specialist Dr Nik Nuratiqah Nik Abee underscored the importance of creating a supportive culture that encourages treatment without fear or judgment.

"We need to foster a culture where seeking treatment is encouraged, not feared. Breaking down misinformation and ensuring access to care will be key to eliminating TB by 2035."

She highlighted Malaysia's ongoing efforts to address drug-resistant TB, including enhanced molecular testing, access to second-line TB drugs and standardised systems to monitor treatment adherence.

"Uninterrupted access to effective medication is essential. Strict adherence to treatment is also crucial in preventing drug resistance. Without it, drug-resistant strains could spread and become even harder to manage."

Dr Nik Nuratiqah said while government initiatives are vital, public participation in TB control is also important.

"Anyone experiencing persistent coughs, night sweats or unexplained weight loss should seek medical help immediately."

Her views were echoed by UKM Faculty of Medicine Respiratory Unit physician Assoc Prof Dr Andrea Ban Yu-Lin, who warned of the severe consequences of untreated TB.

"It can result in severe lung damage and even death," she said, adding that early diagnosis is important to curb it from spreading.

However, she said the disease often thrives in conditions that

hinder detection and treatment, particularly among marginalised communities with limited healthcare access.

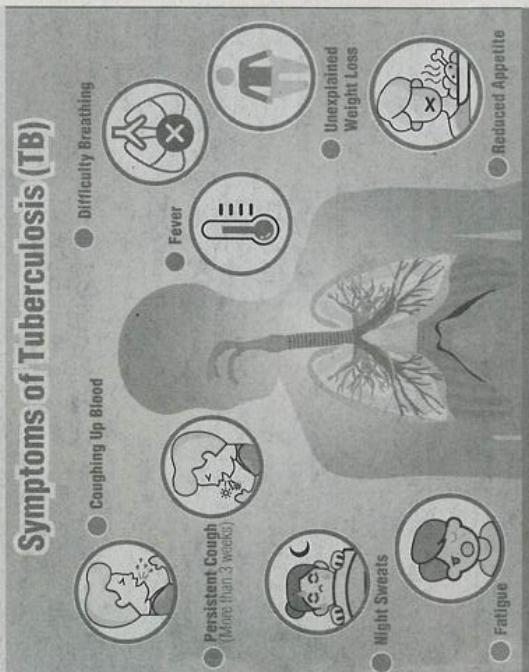
She also said preventive measures such as respiratory hygiene, proper ventilation and community-based screening programmes are critical in curbing transmission.

Another UKM respiratory physician, Assoc Prof Dr Ng Boon Hai outlined the diagnostic tools available in Malaysia, including sputum smear microscopy, nucleic acid amplification tests like *GeneXpert MTB/RIF* and *mycobacterial culture tests*.

For latent TB, he said screening methods include the tuberculin skin test (*Mantoux test*) and *interferon-gamma release assays (IGRAs)*.

"Treatment for active TB requires a strict six-month antibiotic regimen," Dr Ng explained. He warned that failing to complete the full course increases the risk of relapse and the emergence of multi drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), which is far more challenging to treat.

He also said Malaysia's ambition to eliminate TB by 2035 has faced significant setbacks, particularly due to the lingering impacts of the



from seeking timely treatment.

"Misinformation, fear of isolation, and difficulty accessing healthcare further complicate efforts to control the disease. Addressing these barriers requires stronger policies, improved diagnostics and widespread public awareness campaigns," said Dr Ng.

According to Health Ministry figures, Malaysia recorded 26,183 TB cases last year, which was a slight increase from the 26,149 cases in 2023. Experts said while infections among Malaysians declined marginally, from 22,132 cases in 2023 to 21,959 last year, the country continues to face challenges in

combating this airborne disease.

Caused by the *mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria*, TB primarily affects the lungs but can also target other organs. It spreads through microscopic droplets released when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks, making transmission prevalent in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces.

As the world commemorates World TB Day today, experts are optimistic that combined efforts from healthcare professionals, policymakers and the public can help turn the tide against one of the oldest infectious diseases known to mankind.

Experts advised anyone with persistent cough to seek medical help, as untreated TB can result in severe lung damage and even death.

— ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THE SUN

Covid-19 pandemic.

He said lockdowns and healthcare disruptions led to fewer screenings and delayed diagnoses.

"Resources were diverted to managing Covid-19, and as a result, TB detection took a backseat. We are now seeing the consequences."

Beyond pandemic-related challenges, Dr Ng and Dr Nik Nuratiqah expressed concerns about the stigma surrounding TB, warning that social stigma deters patients

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 17

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

DH M/S 17 NASIONAL 24/3/2025 (ISNIN)

Pemandu, doktor, jururawat, pesakit cedera ambulans terbabas

Marang: Pemandu, doktor, jururawat dan pesakit yang menaiki sebuah ambulans cedera ringan selepas tayar belakang sebelah kiri pecah ketika dalam perjalanan ke Hospital Sultanah Nur Zahirah Kuala Terengganu (HSNZ) dari Hospital Kemaman jam 12.30 malam kelmarin.

Ketua Polis Daerah Marang, Superintendan Mohd Sofian Redzuan, berkata pihaknya menerima maklumat kemalangan di Kilometer 49, Jalan Kuala Terengganu-Kuantan di kawasan Jambu Bongkok di sini membabitkan ambulans Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

Ambulans dipandu lelaki be-

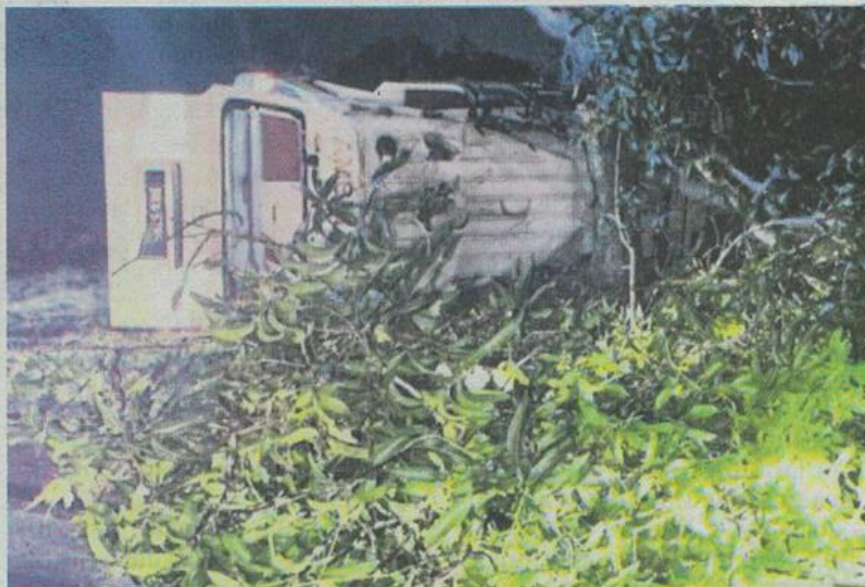
rusia 41 tahun dan penumpang terdiri daripada seorang doktor perempuan berusia 28 tahun dan dua jururawat serta seorang pesakit masing-masing berusia 21 tahun.

Tayar belakang pecah

"Siasatan awal mendapati kemalangan dipercayai berlaku apabila tayar belakang sebelah kiri pecah di tempat kejadian.

"Akibat kejadian itu, van berkenaan terbabas ke kiri jalan dan merempuh sebatang pokok di sebelah kiri jalan," katanya.

Semua dalam ambulans cedera ringan dan dihantar ke HSNZ untuk rawatan.



Tayar belakang pecah menyebabkan ambulans terbabas dan merempuh pokok di Kilometer 49 Jalan Kuala Kuala Terengganu-Kuantan di kawasan Jambu Bongkok, kelmarin.
(Foto ihsan PDRM)