

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Tabung COVID-19 dilancar

Putrajaya: Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin melancarkan Tabung COVID-19 dengan dana permulaan berjumlah RM1 juta.

Perdana Menteri berkata, tabung itu bertujuan membantu rakyat yang terjejas disebabkan tidak dapat bekerja kerana menjalani tempoh kuarantin akibat dijangkiti virus berkenaan.

Serentak itu, beliau merayu semua pihak dan orang ramai menyumbang kepada tabung berkenaan yang kutipan itu akan digantikan semula kepada pihak memerlukan, khususnya terjejas akibat COVID-19.

"Kerajaan sedikit sebanyak

memberikan bantuan kepada mereka yang tidak mempunyai pekerjaan kerana terpaksa dikuarantin.

"Kita tidak mahu kehidupan mereka terjejas. Ini antara bentuk bantuan ihsan yang kita sampaikan.

"Kalau kita dapat kumpul dana daripada rakyat, apa sahaja kita kumpulkan, akan kita kembalikan kepada mereka yang berhak," katanya pada sidang media selepas pengumuman mesyuarat Kabinet pertama di Perdana Putra, semalam.

Pihak swasta, badan sukarela

serta individu digalakkan memberi sumbangan kepada tabung itu demi keprihatinan terhadap kebajikan rakyat yang terkesan dengan penularan COVID-19.

Tabung ini bertujuan memberi bantuan wang ihsan kepada mereka dalam tempoh menjalani pemantauan di rumah (HS) selama 14 hari atau menjalani rawatan di hospital.

Sumbangan RM100 sehari akan diberikan kepada individu yang tidak mempunyai pendapatan tetap atau tidak menerima gaji sepanjang proses HS dan rawatan.



BH TV

TABUNG COVID-19

BANK MUAMALAT

TABUNG BANTUAN BERKANA NEGARA

1601-000 1138-71-4

Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara
Aras B1, 6 dan 7, Blok D5
Kompleks D
Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan Persekutuan
62502 W.P. Putrajaya

5,000 peserta himpunan tabligh dicari

Seorang rakyat Brunei disah positif virus pernah ke Malaysia sertai majlis

Oleh Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
bhnews@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Semua jabatan kesihatan negeri giat mengesan lebih 5,000 peserta Malaysia yang menyertai perhimpunan tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling pada 27 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata siasatan itu dijalankan susulan laporan International Health Regulations - Focal Point Brunei dengan kes disahkan positif COVID-19 di negara berkenaan, mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke Malaysia.

"Kes berkenaan dilaporkan mempunyai sejarah menghadiri perhimpunan tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling pada 27 Februari 2020 hingga 1 Mac 2020.

"Berdasarkan maklumat awal, perhimpunan tabligh ini membatik 10,000 orang dari beberapa negara, termasuk Malaysia.

"Peserta dari Malaysia dianggarkan melebihi 5,000 orang. Semua jabatan kesihatan negeri menjalankan siasatan lanjut mengenai perkara ini di negeri masing-masing," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Selbelum ini, Kementerian Kesihatan Brunei mengesahkan kes pertama positif COVID-19 di negara berkenaan dijangkiti ketika hadir ke satu majlis keagamaan di Malaysia.

Individu terbabit pulang ke Bru-

nei dengan rakannya pada 3 Mac lalu melalui Miri, Sarawak sebelum mengalami simptom jangkitan dan membuat pemeriksaan di Hospital Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha pada 8 Mac lalu.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sehingga tengah hari semalam, ada 20 kes baharu dikesan positif COVID-19.

Katanya, penambahan kes baharu itu ia menjadikan jumlah kumulatif 149 kes.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes ke-78 yang sebelum ini dilaporkan positif kini dibenarkan pulang.

"Ini menjadikan 26 kes pulih sepenuhnya dan dibenarkan pulang. Bagi kes baharu dikenal pasti, Kementerian mengenal pasti kontak rapat dan aktiviti penganan kontak masih dijalankan sehingga punca di mana jangkitan ini dapat dikenal pasti.

"Daripada jumlah itu, dua kes berada di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dan memerlukan bantuan alat pernafasan, tetapi stabil dan masing-masing dirawat di Hospital Sungai Buloh dan Hospital Sultanah Aminah, Johor Bahru.

"Kementerian menjalankan surlen COVID-19 bagi mengesan kes terpencil atau sporadik di Malaysia melalui pesakit influenza-like-illness (ILI) dan severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) yang tiada kaitan dengan sejarah perjalanan ke negara terjejas atau kontak dengan kes positif COVID-19," katanya.



Dr Adham bersama Dr Noor Hisham (dua dari kanan) mendengar penerangan ketika mengadakan lawatan di Pusat Pemantauan COVID-19 di AKEPT Bandar Enstek, di Nilai, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

Sekat masuk rakyat Itali, Iran, Korea

Nilai: Malaysia menyekat kemasukan rakyat Itali, Iran dan Korea Selatan berkuat kuasa, esok.

Langkah itu diambil bagi menyekat penularan coronavirus (COVID-19), yang sudah ada 149 kes di negara ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, berkata warga negara lain yang datang dari negara berkenaan dan memasuki atau transit ke negara ini, turut terbabit dengan sekatan itu.

"Jemaah Menteri bermesyuarat hari ini (semalam) memutuskan sekatan perjalanan sepenuhnya ke atas semua rakyat Itali, Iran dan Republik Korea.

"Warga negara asing lain datang dari negara berkenaan daripada memasuki Malaysia atau transit daripada pintu masuk turut menerima sekatan.

"Kita teruskan langkah strategik untuk menangani COVID-19 secara efektif," katanya pada sidang media selepas melakukan lawatan kerja di Akademi Kepingan Pendidikan Tinggi (AKEPT), Bandar Enstek, di sini, semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah dan Timbalan

Ketua Pengarah Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA), Mohamad Zahari Razali dan Pegawai Kesihatan Daerah Seremban, Dr Mohd Noor Khalili Mohd Ali.

Seramai 68 orang termasuk 20 rakyat asing kebanyakannya dari China dibenarkan pulang ke rumah dan negara masing-masing selepas mereka didapati negatif COVID-19.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Adham berkata, rakyat Malaysia dinasihatkan menagguhkan perjalanan ke Itali, Iran dan Republik Korea sekiranya perjalanan itu tidak mendesak.

Beliau berkata, rakyat Malaysia masih berada di ketiga-tiga negara terbabit kuarantin akan

dikenakan di sana.

"Rakyat Malaysia terkandas di China, tindakan lanjut dilakukan berpandukan cadangan daripada Wisma Putra," katanya.

Beliau juga memaklumkan Jemaah Menteri membuat keputusan sekatan perjalanan ke tiga wilayah di China, iaitu Hubei, Zhejiang dan Jiangsu serta Hokaido di Jepun yang diputuskan sebelum ini, masih berkuat kuasa.

Sementara itu di Pasir Mas, polis memperkenalkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) baharu kepada pegawai dan anggota bertugas di lokap serta lapangan terbang bagi mengelakkan jangkitan COVID-19.

Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador, berkata mesyuarat pengurusan tertinggi Bukit Aman kelmarin memutuskan langkah pencegahan perlu diambil oleh pegawai dan anggota, terutama mereka yang bertugas di lokap.

"Pegawai dan anggota bertugas di lokap perlu bertanya kepada orang kena tahan (OKT) jika mereka kurang sihat seperti demam atau batuk, bagi memudahkan pemeriksaan awal dilakukan," katanya.

Kita teruskan langkah strategik untuk menangani COVID-19 secara efektif.

Dr Adham Baba,
Menteri Kesihatan

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 4A

RUANGAN : LOKAL

Tabung khas Covid-19

Bantu pesakit terganggu kerana terpaksa jalani kuarantin 14 hari



Bernama

Putrajaya

Prihatin dengan nasib individu yang terjerjes susulan jangkitan Covid-19, kerajaan Perikatan Nasional (PN) pimpinan Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin melancarkan tabung khas bagi memberi bantuan kewangan kepada pihak yang memerlukan, semalam.

Muhyiddin berkata, bantuan ihsan RM1 juta disalurkan ke dalam tabung itu untuk permulaan bagi membantu pesakit yang tidak mempunyai pekerjaan dan terganggu kerana terpaksa menjalani tempoh kuarantin 14 hari se-



MUHYIDDIN melancarkan Tabung Covid-19 selepas sidang media Mesyuarat Kabinet Pertama di Bangunan Perdana Putra, Putrajaya, semalam.

belum pulih.

"Kita tidak mahu kehidupan mereka ini terjerjes. Jadi ini antara bentuk bantuan ihsan yang kita sampaikan.

"Kalau kita dapat kumpul dana daripada rakyat jelata, apa sahaja kita kumpulkan, akan kita kembalikan kepada mereka yang berhak," katanya selepas mempengerusi-

kan mesyuarat pertama Kabinet kerajaan PN di Perdana Putra di sini, semalam.

Bagi menzahirkan keprihatinan mereka barisan Jemaah Menteri yang menghadiri mesyuarat itu menyumbang ke dalam tabung yang diadarkan pada majlis pelancaran Tabung Covid-19 selepas sidang media berkenaan.

Sementara itu, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba pada satu majlis di Akademi Kepimpinan Pengajian Tinggi (AKEPT), Nilai berkata, melalui tabung itu, wang ihsan RM100 sehari akan diberikan kepada individu yang tidak mempunyai pendapatan tetap atau tiada gaji sepanjang menjalani tempoh kuarantin.

Kes terkini 149

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 20 kes baharu Covid-19 dilaporkan hingga hari ini (semalam) menjadikan jumlah kumulatif mangsa positif wabak itu di Malaysia sebanyak 149 kes.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, kontak rapat bagi kes itu juga sedang dikenal pasti dan aktiviti pengesanan sedang dijalankan sehingga punca jangkitan diketahui.

"Dengan pertambahan 20 kes baharu ini, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes positif Covid-19 di Malaysia adalah 149 kes iaitu 22 kes dikesan dalam kalangan pesakit di bawah pemantauan (PUI) jangkitan Covid-19.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 124 kes dalam kalangan kontak rapat, satu kes dalam kalangan severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) melalui surveilan Covid-19 dan dua lagi kes dari Misi Bantuan kemanusiaan," katanya dalam

nyataan, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, dua kes dilaporkan berada di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dan memerlukan bantuan alat pernafasan tetapi dalam keadaan stabil.

"Daripada dua kes ini, satu kes dirawat di Hospital Sungai Buloh manakala satu lagi dirawat di Hospital Sultanah Aminah, Johor Bharu.

"KKM juga menjalankan surveilan Covid-19 bagi mengesan kes terpencil atau sporadik di Malaysia melalui pesakit influenza-like-illness (ILI) dan SARI yang tiada kaitan dengan sejarah perjalanan ke negara yang terjerjes atau kontak dengan kes positif Covid-19," katanya.

Menurutnya, selain itu, kes ke-78 yang disahkan positif Covid-19 sebelum ini pulih dan dibenarkan discaj.

"Ini menjadikan 26 kes pulih sepenuhnya setakat ini dan discaj daripada wad," katanya.

Peserta perhimpunan tabligh diminta tampil

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) meminta peserta yang menghadiri perhimpunan tabligh di Masjid Jamek Seri Petaling, Kuala Lumpur pada 27 Februari hingga 1 Mac lalu tampil dan memberi kerjasama kepada agensi itu bagi memastikan jangkitan Covid-19 tidak terus merebak dalam komuniti.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, berdasarkan maklumat awal, perhimpunan tabligh itu membolehkan anggaran 10,000 orang dari beberapa negara termasuk Malaysia.

"Peserta dari Malaysia dianggarkan melebihi 5,000 orang.

"Maklumat ini berdasarkan kes positif yang disahkan Covid-19 di Brunei

melalui International Health Regulations (IHR) Focal Point (FP) Brunei yang memaklumkan kepada IHR FP Malaysia," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Menurutnya, semua jabatan Kesihatan Negeri menjalankan siasatan lanjut mengenai perkara itu di negeri masing-masing.

"Berikutan kejadian Covid-19 di Brunei, KKM menasihatkan mereka yang menghadiri perhimpunan tabligh sekiranya mengalami gejala diminta menghubungi Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah berhampiran atau CPRC negeri.

"KKM juga menggesa semua perhimpunan membatalkan orang ramai ditangguhkan bagi mencegah kemungkinan jangkitan Covid-19 berlaku," katanya.

RINGKRAS

Petugas Sirim, kakitangan SKMM disahkan positif

Shah Alam: Sirim Berhad (Sirim) mengesahkan seorang daripada petugasnya di ibu pejabat di sini, positif menghidap Covid-19, semalam.

Sirim menerusi kenyataan memaklumkan syarikat itu melaksanakan langkah pencegahan bagi mengelakkan sebarang kemungkinan risiko virus itu merebak.

"Pekerja yang berhubung rapat dengan petugas dijangkiti itu juga menjalani ujian pengimbas seperti digariskan Kementerian Kesihatan dan melakukan kuarantin diri sendiri selama 14 hari," katanya.

Sementara itu, di Cyberjaya, Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia (SKMM) mengesahkan pihaknya dimaklumkan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) semalam berhubung seorang kakitangannya disahkan positif Covid-19.

Menurut kenyataan suruhanjaya itu, kakitangan SKMM terbahit menerima rawatan di Hospital Sungai Buloh dan berada dalam keadaan stabil.

"Sebagai langkah proaktif, SKMM sebelum ini mengarahkan kakitangan terbahit menjalani kuarantin 14 hari di rumah sejak 4 Mac lalu selepas mendapati suaminya mempunyai kontak dengan pesakit Covid-19," menurutnya.

Sebat perjalan rakyat Itali, Iran, Korea Selatan

Nilai: Malaysia mengambil keputusan melaksanakan sebatan perjalanan sepenuhnya ke atas semua rakyat Itali, Iran dan Korea Selatan daripada memasuki negara ini berkuat kuasa 13 Mac ini.

Langkah itu diambil bagi menyekat penularan wabak Covid-19 yang setakat hari ini menjangkiti 129 rakyat negara ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, warga negara lain yang datang dari tiga negara berkenaan dan memasuki atau transit ke negara ini turut terbahit dengan sebatan itu.

"Jemaah Menteri yang bermesyuarat hari (semalam) ini memutuskan se-



DR Adham

katan perjalanan sepenuhnya ke atas semua rakyat Itali, Iran dan Korea Selatan.

"Warga negara asing lain yang datang dari tiga negara berkenaan yang mahu memasuki Malaysia atau transit daripada pintu masuk turut menerima sebatan," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 12
 RUANGAN : ANCAMAN COVID-19

12

ANCAMAN COVID-19

KHAMIS 12 MAC 2020 • SINAR HARIAN

Tabung Covid-19 dilancarkan

Bagi memberi bantuan kewangan kepada pihak yang terjejas

PUTRAJAYA

Prihatin dengan individu yang terjejas dengan jangkitan koronavirus (Covid-19), kerajaan Perikatan Nasional pimpinan Perdana Menteri, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin semalam melancarkan tabung khas bagi memberi bantuan kewangan kepada pihak yang memerlukan.

Muhyiddin berkata, untuk permulaan, bantuan ihsan sebanyak RM1 juta disalurkan ke dalam tabung tersebut bagi membantu pesakit yang tidak

mempunyai pekerjaan dan terganggu kerana terpaksa menjalani tempoh kuarantin selama 14 hari sebelum pulih.

"Kita tidak mahu kehidupan mereka ini terjejas. Jadi ini antara bentuk bantuan ihsan yang kita sampaikan.

"Kalau kita dapat kumpul dana daripada rakyat jelata, apa sahaja kita kumpulkan, akan kita kembalikan kepada mereka yang berhak," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas mempekerusikan mesyuarat pertama Kabinet kerajaan Perikatan Nasional di sini semalam.

Bagi menzahirkan keprihatinan mereka, barisan Jemaah Menteri yang menghadiri mesyuarat itu menyumbang ke dalam tabung yang diedarkan pada majlis pelancaran Tabung Covid-19 selepas sidang akhbar berkenaan. - Bernama



Muhyiddin (dua dari kiri) menyumbang kepada Tabung Covid-19 selepas melancarkannya di Bangunan Perdana Putra, Putrajaya semalam.

FOTO: BERNAMA

PDRM perkenal SOP baharu kepada pegawai, anggota di lokap dan lapangan terbang

PASIR MAS - Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) memperkenalkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) baharu kepada pegawai dan anggotanya yang bertugas di lokap dan lapangan terbang dalam usaha mengurangkan risiko mereka dijangkiti koronavirus (Covid-19).

Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador berkata, mesyuarat pengurusan tertinggi Bukit Aman memutuskan antara langkah yang perlu diambil pegawai dan anggotanya terutama yang bertugas di lokap ialah membuat pemeriksaan kesihatan awal terhadap orang kena tahanan (OKT).

"Pegawai dan anggota yang bertugas di lokap perlu bertanya kepada OKT jika mereka kurang sihat seperti mengalami demam ataupun batuk.

"Jika OKT mempunyai simptom-simptom itu, ia perlu dimaklumkan kepada pihak pengurusan untuk tindakan lanjut," katanya di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, bagi pegawai dan anggota yang bertugas di lapangan terbang pula, pihaknya amat menitikberatkan tahap kebersihan dan langkah pencegahan seperti memakai penutup muka dan sentiasa menggunakan cecair pembasmi kuman.



Abdul Hamid menyematkan Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara kepada pesara polis Azli Mat Nor pada Istiadat Penganugerahan Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara di Dewan Ketua Polis Negara, Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah (IPD) Pasir Mas semalam.

"SOP yang diputuskan pada mesyuarat semalam (kelmarin) itu berkuat kuasa hari ini (semalam)," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, seorang anggota polis kini dikuarantin selepas disyaki keluar bersama seorang pesakit yang positif Covid-19.

"Pucuk pimpinan PDRM amat mengambil berat mengenai tahap kesihatan dan kebajikan pegawai dan anggota kami dalam usaha menangani wabak ini," katanya. - Bernama

Kementerian Pengangkutan sediakan nota Covid-19

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Pengangkutan akan menyediakan satu nota mengenai impak koronavirus (Covid-19) untuk dijadikan rujukan pelbagai kementerian lain dalam merangka strategi menangani penularan jangkitan virus itu, kata Menteri Pengangkutan, Datuk Seri Ir Dr Wee Ka Siong.

Beliau berkata, Kementerian Pengangkutan ditugaskan untuk menyediakan nota berkenaan dalam mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri yang pertama di Perdana Putra di sini semalam.

Ka Siong berkata, beliau mendapat laporan awal mengenai pembatalan penerbangan yang banyak ke Malaysia sejak Covid-19 merebak dan keadaan itu pasti memberi kesan kepada rakyat Malaysia.

"Kesan perkembangan ini kepada sektor pelancongan sangat besar. Nota (yang disediakan Kementerian Pengangkutan) akan menjadi pangkalan data bagi kementerian lain untuk mengkaji impak Covid-19. Kami (semua kementerian) bekerjasama sebagai satu pasukan," katanya. - Bernama

Jalin kerjasama dengan negara terjejas Covid-19

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Luar akan bekerjasama rapat dengan negara-negara yang terjejas dengan koronavirus (Covid-19) dalam usaha mengkeang penularan wabak tersebut.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein berkata, Wisma Putra akan memainkan peranan dalam membantu negara menangani wabak Covid-19 kerana sekiranya tidak ditangani dengan sempurna, ia akan memberi kesan kepada ekonomi dan psikologi rakyat.

Menurutnya, Wisma Putra juga akan mendapatkan pandangan daripada beberapa pakar luar membabitkan negara-negara yang terjejas termasuk Emiriah Arab Bersatu (UAE), China dan Singapura.

"Covid-19 sudah menular di seluruh



HISHAMMUDDIN

dunia. Kita ada hubungan baik dengan negara luar yang sudah berdepan situasi ini, jadi mengapa tidak kita kongsi dan cari kaedah terbaik untuk menangani wabak ini.

"Ini adalah antara isu yang akan saya bangkitkan dengan Menteri Luar China (Wang Yi) dan Menteri Luar Singapura nanti. Sebab mereka adalah barisan pertama dalam melawan

isu Covid-19 contohnya UAE di Timur Tengah dan ini yang akan saya ketengahkan dalam perbualan dengan Syeikh Abdullah Zayed nanti," katanya di sini semalam.

Selain itu, katanya, Wisma Putra turut memberi keutamaan kepada rakyat Malaysia yang berada di luar negara khususnya di negara yang terkesan dengan Covid-19.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : ANCAMAN COVID-19

SINAR HARIAN • KHAMIS 12 MAC 2020

ANCAMAN COVID-19

13

Sekat kemasukan rakyat tiga negara

Kerajaan buat sekatan perjalanan sepenuhnya terhadap kemasukan rakyat Itali, Iran dan Korea Selatan

Oleh SARINAH MAT KASIM

NILAI

Kerajaan membuat sekatan perjalanan sepenuhnya terhadap kemasukan rakyat Itali, Iran dan Korea Selatan serta warganegara asing lain yang datang dari tiga negara terbabit berkuat kuasa Jumaat ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, mereka juga tidak dibenarkan transit di mana-mana pintu masuk Malaysia.

Beliau berkata, sekatan perjalanan ke atas tiga wilayah di China iaitu Hubei, Zhejiang dan Jiangsu serta Hokaido, Jepun masih lagi berkuat kuasa seperti yang diputuskan sebelum ini.

"Rakyat Malaysia, penduduk tetap dan pemegang pas jangka panjang yang tiba dari Itali, Iran

dan Korea Selatan akan dikenakan perintah pengawasan dan pemerhatian di rumah di bawah Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawalan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988 selama 14 hari.

"Rakyat Malaysia dinasihatkan supaya menagguhkan perjalanan ke Itali, Iran dan Korea Selatan sekiranya perjalanan berkenaan tidak mendesak atas faktor risiko mendapat jangkitan semasa berada di negara terbabit," katanya semasa mengadakan lawatan ke Akademi Kepimpinan Pendidikan Tinggi (Akept), pusat kuarantin individu yang dibawa pulang dari Wuhan, China di sini semalam.

Hadir sama, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Nor Hisham Abdullah; Ketua Pengarah Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (Nadma), Datuk Mohd Abd Rahman dan Timbalan Ketua Pengarah (Sektor Pengurusan Pasca Bencana), Mohamed Zahari Razali.

Sementara itu, Dr Adham berkata, sumbangan bantuan sebanyak RM100 sehari akan diberikan kepada individu yang terkesan dengan penularan koronavirus (Covid-19) terutama mereka yang tidak mempunyai pendapatan tetap atau tiada gaji sepanjang tempoh 14 hari proses



Dr Adham berucap kepada pemberita selepas mengadakan lawatan ke Akept, Nilai semalam.

pengawasan di rumah.

Katanya, sumbangan tersebut diberikan melalui kutipan Tabung Covid-19 yang diuruskan oleh pihak Nadma.

"Pihak swasta, badan sukarela serta orang awam digalakkan untuk memberi sumbangan kepada tabung itu untuk kebajikan rakyat yang terkesan dengan penularan Covid-19.

"Tabung itu bertujuan memberi bantuan wang ihsan kepada mereka dalam tempoh menja-

lani *home surveillance* (HS) selama 14 hari atau menjalani rawatan di hospital ekoran positif Covid-19 yang didaftarkan oleh KKM," katanya.

Terdahulu, Dr Adham diberi taklimat mengenai operasi dan pengurusan orang di bawah pengawasan (PUS) yang ditempatkan di Akept.

Seramai 48 rakyat Malaysia dan 20 bukan warganegara dari Wuhan, China yang dikuarantin di Akept disahkan negatif Co-

vid-19.

Kesemua mereka dibenarkan pulang ke rumah masing-masing setelah menjalani saringan kesihatan selama 14 hari bermula 26 Februari lepas.

Ketika ditanya mengenai pelaksanaan misi Wuhan Fasa ketiga memandangkan masih ada rakyat tempatan terkandas di wilayah itu akibat masalah logistik, Dr Adham berkata, terpuang kepada Wisma Putra untuk membuat keputusan.

KWSP Jalan Raja Laut ditutup bagi proses disinfeksi

KUALA LUMPUR - Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) Kuala Lumpur, Jalan Raja Laut mengambil langkah proaktif menutup pejabat di cawangan itu mulai semalam sehingga 13 Mac bagi proses disinfeksi ruang pejabat dan kawasan persekitaran.

Menurut kenyataan KWSP, pejabat itu akan beroperasi semula pada Isnin depan (16 Mac).

Penutupan pejabat itu susulan seorang ahli KWSP disahkan positif koronavirus (Covid-19) dan dimasukkan ke hospital untuk rawatan lanjut.

"Ahli itu berurusan di pejabat KWSP Kuala Lumpur, Jalan Raja Laut pada 27 Februari 2020 (2 hingga 2.30 petang) dan disahkan positif pada 3 Mac 2020. Namun, tiada sebarang pengesahan

sama ada ahli itu telah dijangkiti Covid-19 sebelum beliau berurusan di pejabat KWSP.

"Kami telah mengenal pasti pegawai KWSP yang berkemungkinan terdedah kepada ahli itu dan telah menghantar mereka untuk menjalani pemeriksaan. Pegawai-pegawai lain daripada pejabat itu juga dikuarantin. KWSP sentiasa bekerjasama rapat dengan pihak berkuasa untuk sebarang tindakan lanjutan," menurut kenyataan itu semalam.

Dalam pada itu, kaunter KWSP di lokasi lain akan beroperasi seperti biasa.

Bagaimanapun, ahli digalakkan membuat transaksi secara dalam talian melalui aplikasi i-Akaun kecuali bagi urusan yang memerlukan kehadiran ke kaunter KWSP. - *Bernama*

20 kes baharu positif Covid-19

KUALA LUMPUR

- Sebanyak 20 kes baharu positif koronavirus (Covid-19) dilaporkan setakat 12 tengah semalam menjadikan jumlah kes kumulatif di negara ini meningkat kepada 149, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Beliau berkata, satu kes iaitu kes ke-78 yang disahkan positif Covid-19 sebelum ini telah pulih serta dibenarkan pulang menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan yang pulih adalah sebanyak 26 kes.

"Kementerian Kesihatan sedang menjalankan siasatan bagi mengesan kontak-kontak rapat bagi setiap kes baharu itu sehingga punca jangkitan dapat dikenal pasti," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, daripada jumlah keseluruhan yang positif, se-



NOOR HISHAM

banyak 22 kes dikesan dalam kalangan pesakit dalam siasatan (PUT), 124 kes kontak rapat, dua kes daripada Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan manakala satu kes daripada jangkitan pernafasan akut teruk (SARI) melalui surveilan Co-

vid-19.

"Sehingga kini, dua kes telah dilaporkan berada di Unit Rawatan Rapi dan memerlukan bantuan alat pernafasan tetapi dalam keadaan stabil.

"Daripada kes ini, satu kes sedang dirawat di Hospital Sungai Buloh, manakala satu kes lagi dirawat di Hospital Sultanah Aminah, Johor Bahru," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, beliau berkata, International Health Regulations Focal Point (IHRFP) Brunei telah memaklumkan

kepada IHRFP Malaysia mengenai kes yang disahkan Covid-19 dikesan di negara itu.

Kes tersebut dilaporkan mempunyai sejarah menghadiri perhimpunan tabligh di Masjid Seri Petaling, Selangor pada 27 Februari hingga 1 Mac.

"Berdasarkan maklumat awal, perhimpunan tabligh ini melibatkan anggaran sejumlah 10,000 orang daripada beberapa negara termasuk Malaysia.

"Peserta dari Malaysia adalah dianggarkan melebihi 5,000 orang. Semua Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri sedang menjalankan siasatan lanjut mengenai perkara ini di negeri masing-masing," menurut Dr Noor Hisham.

Sehubungan itu, beliau menasihatkan mereka yang menghadiri perhimpunan tabligh tersebut untuk menghubungi Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah berhampiran atau Pusat Kesiapiagaan dan Respon Krisis (CPRC) negeri sekiranya mengalami gejala. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

DETECTED FROM SAMPLES

FIRST SPORADIC CASE IN MALAYSIA

Patient did not have travel history to affected countries or close contact with infected person

THARANYA ARUMUGAM
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

MALAYSIA confirmed its first sporadic case of Covid-19 yesterday, signalling the first time the coronavirus was detected in an isolated and random manner in the community.

A sporadic case means the infected person did not have any travel history to the affected countries or contact with an infected person.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said this case was detected after the Health Ministry conducted surveillance on 600 samples taken from people with influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI).

He said the ministry collected 600 samples — 138 with SARI and 462 with ILI — up to Monday. Yesterday, tests confirmed that one of those samples was infected with Covid-19.



Health Ministry personnel screening tourists from Thailand in Langkawi yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

"Investigation is ongoing to identify the cause of this sporadic infection," he said.

When asked by the *New Straits Times* if this warranted Malaysia to upgrade its nationwide response mechanism to "Heightened Risk" for the outbreak, Dr Noor Hisham said: "Let us investigate this case first before we collectively make a decision."

On Feb 7, Singapore raised its Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (Dorcon) level from "Yellow" to "Orange" following four sporadic cases of the virus in the republic.

Malaysia yesterday recorded 20

new cases of Covid-19, bringing the tally to 149.

Of those 149 cases, 22 of them were detected among persons under investigation (PUI), 124 from close contacts, two others were part of humanitarian aid missions and one was a person with SARI.

"The ministry is identifying close contacts of these cases through contact tracing. This process will continue until the cause of the infection is identified," said Dr Noor Hisham.

He advised attendees of a four-day "tabligh" (religious event) gathering held from Feb 27 until

Govt launches Covid-19 fund to help victims

PUTRAJAYA: A special fund has been launched to ease the burden faced by those infected by Covid-19.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the government had agreed to contribute RM1 million to the fund.

"We view Covid-19 seriously. The Covid-19 fund is aimed at helping those infected with the virus, especially patients whose work was affected while being quarantined.

"A RM100 daily aid will be given to those who have lost income throughout the treatment period.

"Your sincere donation is welcome.

"Whatever we collect would be channelled to those deserving of assistance," he said at a press conference after chairing the first cabinet meeting yesterday.

The private sector, volunteers and individuals were encouraged to contribute to the fund, which is aimed at providing cash aid to those tested positive with Covid-19 and had to undergo treatment in hospitals registered with the Health Ministry or the 14-day home surveillance.

Donations can be channelled to account number 1601-000133-71-4 (Bank Muamalat) under Tabung Bantuan Bencana Negara.

March 1 at the Masjid Seri Petaling, Selangor who had symptoms of the illness to get themselves tested for Covid-19.

He said this was needed after a Brunei citizen was said to have contracted the virus after attending the gathering.

He said the International Health Regulations Focal Point in Malaysia was notified of this from its counterpart in Brunei.

"Based on preliminary information, the gathering was attended by some 10,000 people from several countries, including more than 5,000 Malaysians. All state Health Departments are investigating this in their states.

"The ministry calls on all who attended the gathering to cooperate with health officials to ensure the infection does not continue to spread.

"As for those who do not show symptoms, they are advised to practise social distancing by keeping themselves at least 1m away from others for 14 days from the date of attending the gathering."

He said the ministry urged for mass gatherings to be postponed.

Up to yesterday, 26 patients out of the 149 who tested positive had recovered and were discharged, with the latest being Case 78.

On the 66 Malaysians and their family members who were evacuated from Wuhan via Malaysia's humanitarian aid mission on Feb 26, he said they were allowed to return home after undergoing quarantine at the Higher Education Leadership Academy in Bandar Enstek, Nilai.

All 66 of them tested negative for Covid-19.

No entry for travellers from Iran, Italy and South Korea

NILAI: Foreign nationals from Iran, Italy and South Korea are barred from entering Malaysia effective tomorrow to stem the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the directive was issued by the cabinet at its weekly meeting yesterday.

The ban also applied to those who came directly from the countries, including other foreign nationals.

"We are taking this step to respond to the current situation of Covid-19 in the country," he said after visiting the Higher Education Leadership Academy here yesterday.

He said Malaysians who returned from these countries would be quarantined for 14 days.

He said the ban on travellers from Hubei, Zhejiang and Jiangsu in China and Hokkaido in Japan was still being enforced.

He advised Malaysians in the affected countries to adhere to the quarantine process there.

He said people were advised to postpone visits to the affected countries unless it was urgent.

"For Malaysians stranded in China, further action will be taken based on recommendations by the Foreign Ministry."

Present at the event were Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, National Disaster Management Agency deputy director-general Mohamed Zahari Razali and Seremban district health officer Dr Mohd Noor Khalili Mohd Ali.

80pc of cases exhibit mild cough, flu

PUTRAJAYA: Some 80 per cent of Covid-19 cases only exhibit a mild form of cough and flu and not other associated symptoms.

Another 15 per cent of cases were designated as severe, which meant that they suffered from pneumonia and needed oxygen supply, while another three per cent needed to be placed in the Intensive Care Unit as their hearts and kidneys could be affected, said Dr Suresh Kumar Chidambaram.

Dr Suresh, who is the infectious disease consultant at Sungai Buloh Hospital, said this was how Covid-19 patients were categorised based on the severity of their symptoms.

He said as the number of patients in Malaysia was low, the

Health Ministry was able to discern the pattern from the information given by the People's Republic of China.

"When a person is infected by Covid-19, there is a high possibility that he may not have been affected in any way (by the infection).

"We have visitors (patients) in Sungai Buloh for a week or two and the biggest problem they face is boredom. "They end up only looking at the walls.

"It's better to have a good data plan.

"If you don't have a good data



Dr Suresh Kumar Chidambaram

plan, you could be quite bored out of your skull," he said to laughter from editors and senior journalists attending a briefing by the Health Ministry on Monday.

During the briefing, Dr Suresh also explained in detail the steps taken by the public health sector to combat the outbreak from the start.

He said it began with an individual suspected of Covid-19 infection being categorised as a person under investigation (PUI).

>> Turn to Page 8

AKHBAR : THE STAR
 MUKA SURAT : 2
 RUANGAN : NATION

2 Nation

Reports by JOSEPH KAOS Jr, RAHIMY RAHIM, SIRA HABIBU, TARRENCE TAN, CLARISSA CHUNG and JOANNE TIMBUONG

Economy is main priority

Govt sets up council to immediately address issues

PUTRAJAYA: On its first day at work, the new Perikatan Nasional Cabinet wasted no time and has set up the Economic Action Council (EAC) to address economic woes.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Malaysia was suffering from the global oil price dip as well as the Covid-19 outbreak.

"The EAC will sit every week. Not once a month. Its first meeting will be on Monday. Any decision made at the council will then be brought to the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday for approval."

"We want to show that we will not waste time in addressing these problems," Muhyiddin told a press conference after chairing his first Cabinet meeting at Perdana Putra here.

The Prime Minister said the council would be chaired by him and would also comprise Finance Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, International Trade And Industry Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

Bank Negara Governor Datuk Nor Shamsiah Mohd Yunus and other experts will also be included in the council.

Muhyiddin said a joint secretariat involving the Finance Ministry and the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) would be set up to oversee the council.

He said the B40 group in particular would be given extra attention as they were the ones who were affected most by the economic situation.

On the RM20bil economic stimulus package which was launched by the previous government to cushion the impact of Covid-19, Muhyiddin said it would be reviewed.

"We want to see where else we can improve because we want to ensure all our target markets are given the right attention. We also want to bring back investors' confidence," said Muhyiddin, adding that the review could take one or two weeks.



Help at hand: Ministers and officials contributing to the Covid-19 Fund launched by Muhyiddin in Putrajaya. — Bernama

On whether the national budget needs to be recalibrated in light of the plummeting oil prices, Muhyiddin said this would be decided by the EAC.

He also said the government would look into whether the controversial Goods and Services Tax (GST) would be brought back.

"We will see if there is a need for it. We will look into everything ... be it GST, SST. It must be in line with the government's broad policy."

"Whatever options we choose, it cannot be burdensome to the people. We must find something that is a good balance," he added.

On whether the ministers will take a pay cut to compensate for the increase in Cabinet size, Muhyiddin said he was willing to take up the challenge.

"We know we have to be prudent. There are costs. I will take the challenge for my salary to be cut ... 5%? 10%? But we did not discuss this today, so do not preempt," he said.

After the press conference, Muhyiddin also launched the Covid-19 Fund, which will be used to help those affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

He said the government would allocate RM1mil to the fund, adding that the public was encouraged to donate.

The Cabinet members who were sworn in before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on Tuesday met for the first time yesterday at their weekly meeting.

Chaired by Muhyiddin, the meeting was also attended by Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Aid for those affected by Covid-19

PUTRAJAYA: The Covid-19 Fund launched by the Perikatan Nasional government will give financial aid to those directly affected by the outbreak.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said that for a start, RM1mil had been channelled into the fund to help Covid-19 patients and those under the 14-day quarantine but not holding any jobs.

"We don't want their lives to be affected. So this is one type of humanitarian aid we are giving."

"If we can raise funds from the people, whatever we collect will be given to those eligible for the aid," he told a press conference after chairing the first Cabinet meeting of the Perikatan government at Perdana Putra here yesterday.

Ministers who attended the meeting also contributed when the hat was passed around at the launch of the Covid-19 Fund after the press conference.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, at a ceremony at the Higher Education Leadership Academy in Nilai, Negri Sembilan, said individuals without a fixed income or salary would be given aid of RM100 a day during the quarantine period.

The fund, which is managed by the National Disaster Management Agency, covers those placed under the 14-day home surveillance as well as Covid-19 patients being treated at hospitals. — Bernama

Watch the video
thestartv.com



AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Reports by ANDREA FILMER, LIEW JIA XIAN, SARBAN SINGH and STEPHEN THEN

Loo and behold, panic buying hits Penang

GEORGE TOWN: The first Covid-19 positive case reported in the state has led to shoppers dashing for toilet rolls, instant noodles and dried food items.

"I think most people are buying for the sake of buying. They get into panic-buying mode, just like those in Singapore and Hong Kong," said a housewife, who only wished to be known as Hing.

"My friends called me on Tuesday night to inform me that toilet rolls were sold out in many supermarkets," she said.

Hing, who was among those spotted buying toilet paper at a hypermarket in Bayan Lepas, maintained that she was doing so as she had run out of the item.

At another supermarket in Bayan Baru, housewife Lynn Ooi was disappointed to find that toilet rolls had been wiped clean from the shelves.

"I came to restock some of my daily essentials at home such as toilet rolls and dried food.

"These are items that we use daily, so I thought that it would be better to stock up in times like these," said Ooi, 56.

Ooi, however, said she was not worried about the situation in Penang.

"I believe the situation is still under control. Many people got anxious when they see online postings about panic buying. So, they would buy a lot of goods that are not needed,"



Frenzy: Shoppers stocking up on daily essentials at a supermarket in Bayan Baru. (Right) Shelves meant for toilet rolls running empty.

she said.

A check by *The Star* yesterday found that toilet rolls were sold out at Sunshine Square in Bayan Baru and Tesco Penang in Jalan Tengku Kudin, while other major supermarkets are said to be running low on the products.

State health director Dr Asmayani Khalib advised Penangites to stay calm following the first confirmed case reported in the state – an engineer at Motorola in Bayan Lepas.

It is understood that the man was in contact with a Covid-19 patient in Kuala Lumpur recently.

Sunshine Wholesale Mart Sdn Bhd marketing communications manager Bryan Wong said there was a surge in toilet paper sales on Tuesday night after the first Covid-19 case was confirmed in Penang.

"Most people were stocking up on toilet paper, instant noodles, hand sanitisers, pasta and frozen food.

"We had just restocked on Sunday and it was all gone by Tuesday night," he said.

Wong gave the assurance that stock was still adequate as delivery from suppliers were ongoing as usual.

"As most of the items are locally produced, our suppliers assured us that there are no shortages.

"We had taken immediate action by limiting customers to two packs of toilet paper per person. If the situation does not improve, we may reduce to selling one pack to each customer," he said.

Pantai Hospital Penang clinical psychologist Dr Yeoh Si Han described the shopping frenzy as a contagion effect.

"We wouldn't want to run out of toilet paper as it provides a sense of comfort in difficult situations," she said.

Dr Yeoh noted that people were also stocking up on food.

"They panic because of the uncertainty and a possibility of a city lockdown, and they stock up as it gives them a sense of control," she said.

Keep kids at home, parents told

Schools react following Penang's first Covid-19 case

GEORGE TOWN: Many schools and preschools in Penang have been thrown into disarray following the confirmation of the first Covid-19 case in the state.

Some of them issued last-minute notices to families, requesting that children of parents working at the Motorola site in Bayan Lepas be kept home.

Several schools have gone a step further, disallowing children who have relatives working at the same plant.

One mother, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said she was shocked to be told that her daughter would not be admitted to her kindergarten.

"My brother works at Motorola but I'm not sure how the kindergarten knew.

"I told them that my brother does not live in the same house as us, but they said for safety reasons, my child could not go to school today (yesterday)," she said.

The parent, who is working full-time, said she was not prepared for this and had to apply for emergency leave to take care of her daughter.

"I have been in contact with my brother a couple times over the last two weeks but I do not know if he has been in contact with the Covid-19 patient," she said.

It was earlier reported that a Motorola spokesman had confirmed



Masked up: Pupils waiting to be picked up by their parents after school in Georgetown.

that one of its engineers tested positive for the virus on Monday.

Another parent lamented the lack of directives from authorities.

"We don't know if schools have the authority to reject children. If there is a clear policy, then we can talk to our bosses to see if we can work from home for the next two weeks," a 35-year-old father said.

A state Health Department official

said currently, schools do not have the authority to reject students from going to school. All instructions on the matter would need to adhere to Health Ministry's instructions, said the officer who declined to be named.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow issued a statement saying the state was working closely with its Health Department to deal with

the outbreak.

"At this time, the state respects and supports the protocols and SOP that are being practised by the Health Ministry in facing the Covid-19 outbreak.

"It is not deemed to be necessary for the state to create new protocols seeing that the Health Ministry's practices are based on World Health Organisation guidelines," he said.



Infected Bruneian visited Miri

MIRI: The Brunei Health Ministry's confirmation of a citizen infected with Covid-19 is causing worry among Mirians.

This is because the Bruneian, in his 50s, had reportedly visited Miri twice over the past week.

Miri MP Dr Michael Teo Yu Keng has urged the Malaysian Health Ministry to look into the matter with its Brunei counterpart.

"From the information that is going around, the man had visited Miri on March 3 and 6.

"It is said that he had used a flight from Miri to go elsewhere, and then when he came back to Miri, he went shopping in the city, before going back to Brunei via road. He returned to Miri again soon after to shop. I do not have information on the exact places he visited in Miri," Dr Teo said.

Dr Teo said the Bruneian man, in his 50s, is said to have visited with a delegation from the sultanate that is just 35km from Miri.

He added that Mirians should take all the necessary precautions.

Malaysia bans Iranians, Italians and S. Koreans from tomorrow

NILAI: All Iranians, Italians and South Koreans have been barred from entering Malaysia starting tomorrow following the Covid-19 outbreak in these countries, says Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

The Health Minister said the ban, instructed by the Cabinet at its meeting yesterday, was necessary following the number of cases and deaths in the three countries. He said other foreigners who had visited these three countries would also be barred from coming in.

"From Friday (tomorrow), Malaysians returning from these

countries would also be required to observe home surveillance for 14 days.

"Malaysians are also not encouraged to visit these countries unless there is a pressing need," he said after visiting the Higher Education Leadership Academy (Akept) here which had been temporarily converted into a quarantine centre for those brought back from Wuhan, China.

Dr Adham said the ban on those coming from Hubei, Zhejiang and Jiangsu in China and Hokkaido in Japan was still in force.

He also said none of the 175 people who were flown back from Wuhan last month had tested positive after being quarantined for 14 days.

He said the first batch of 107 people were discharged on Feb 18 and the remaining 68 were allowed to return home yesterday.

In Kuala Lumpur, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, in a statement yesterday, said International Health Regulations Focal Point Brunei has informed its Malaysian counterpart about a confirmed Covid-19 case there.

"The case was reported to have

attended a tabligh assembly at the Seri Petaling Mosque in Selangor from Feb 27 to March 1. Initial information revealed about 10,000 people from various countries, including Malaysia, were involved in the assembly.

"It is estimated that at least 5,000 Malaysians participated in the event," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said as of noon yesterday, there were 20 new infection cases reported, bringing the cumulative total to 149.

The ministry, he added, was also conducting surveillance to trace iso-

lated or sporadic cases in Malaysia through influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) that had no connection with travel history to affected countries or contact with positive cases.

He said as of March 9, 600 samples (138 SARI and 462 ILI) had been tested with one sample testing positive for Covid-19.

He also announced that all 66 Malaysians and their families who were brought back from Wuhan, China, on Feb 26 had been allowed to go home after completing observation. All of them tested negative.