

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 46

RUANGAN : DARI PERAK

Laporan kebakaran bumbung wad HBUK perlukan penilaian rapi

IPOH - Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri belum menerima laporan penuh daripada unit forensik Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia Perak berhubung kebakaran yang berlaku di wad 11, Hospital Bahagia Ulu Kinta (HBUK), minggu lalu.

Pemangku Pengarahnya, Datuk Dr Rahimi Goon berkata, laporan bagi mengenal pasti punca atau faktor yang menyebabkan kebakaran memerlukan beberapa tempoh untuk memastikan ia terperinci.

Bumbung wad hospital terbakar



Laporan Sinar Harian 6 Januari lalu.

"Sebelum ini, kita sendiri tanya jabatan (bomba) dan mereka kata tak boleh beri jangka waktu khusus kerana

perkara ini memerlukan penilaian yang rapi.

"Jadi, macam mana pun kita kena tunggu laporan dahulu dan selepas itu baru boleh buat penilaian sekaligus memohon peruntukan daripada pihak kementerian untuk membaiki kerosakan yang berlaku," katanya.

Beliau berkata, seramai 21 pesakit yang terlibat dalam tragedi kebakaran itu juga dipindahkan ke wad berhampiran bagi memastikan mereka berada dalam keadaan baik.

"Kita pindahkan mereka ke wad berhampiran dan setakat ini keadaan mereka baik selain dipantau oleh kakitangan HBUK sendiri," katanya.

Sebelum ini, Exco Kerajaan Negeri, Datuk Dr Mah Hang Soon menyifatkan laporan penuh daripada Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat akan membolehkan kerosakan yang berlaku terutama membabitkan bahagian siling dan stor wad 11 itu diperbaiki.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 20

RUANGAN : LETTERS

CARDIOTHORACIC UNIT

KOTA BARU HOSPITAL UNIT STILL OPEN

THIS is in response to an article published by the *New Straits Times* on Dec 29, "Upgrade hospital's cardiothoracic unit". "One cannot help but feel that the unit is being neglected and treated like a stepchild," said the writer.

The cardiothoracic unit at Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II (HRPZ II) in Kota Baru was developed in 2010. HRPZ II is one of seven government hospitals offering cardiothoracic services, a combination of cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery and cardiothoracic anesthesia services.

It is headed by cardiothoracic surgeon Datuk Dr Anas S. Ressay, sup-

ported by a team of specialists, medical officers and allied health personnel.

Over the years, the staff members have increased. They were also sent for training in other cardiothoracic centres, for example, Penang Hospital.

The cardiothoracic service at HRPZ II has one operation theatre, a five bedded Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit with dedicated staff and a 12 bed cardiothoracic ward. The unit was initially allocated RM2.5 million in 2011 and in 2016, RM6 million to run the service.

To date, 467 patients have undergone surgery at this unit; 182 cases for coronary artery bypass graft, 77

for valve operation, 48 for thoracic procedures, 45 congenital cases and 115 for other procedures.

Over the years, the people of Kelantan and northern Terengganu have benefited from the cardiothoracic services at HRPZ II.

Recently, new cardiology services have been made available in Kelantan.

One is the catheterisation lab (CATH Lab), an invasive cardiology lab for performing invasive procedures, such as angiogram for heart cases, to support the cardiothoracic services at HRPZ II.

Prior to this, HRPZ II used the CATH Lab at Universiti Sains Malaysia Hospital in Kubang Kerian,

6km away. Having an in-house CATH Lab has complemented the cardiothoracic services and more emergency cases can be done quickly.

Other than HRPZ II, Universiti Sains Malaysia Hospital also provides cardiothoracic services since 2003.

It has two cardiothoracic surgeons and three cardiologists. A total of 1,800 patients have undergone heart surgeries at this hospital since its opening.

In summary, the Cardiothoracic Unit at HRPZ II has never been closed.

Neither is there a plan to close it down.

Efforts have been made to upgrade

the service in line with the Health Ministry's policy.

Whether it stands as a unit or department, it is just an administrative matter.

But a dedicated, committed and competent team serving the unit is the most important parameter towards the success of the unit to serve the people of Kelantan.

The support and cooperation from other government hospital cardiothoracic centres and the ministry will ensure the sustainability of the service at HRPZ II.

DATUK DR AHMAD RAZIN AHMAD MAHIR

Kelantan Health director

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 20

RUANGAN : LETTERS

NICOTINE OVERDOSE



The majority of those who use the e-cigarette are dual users.

Not much proof that e-cigarettes can help people stop smoking

AS people become more aware of the dangers of smoking, many have taken steps to reduce the number of cigarettes smoked or to stop the bad habit.

Public and private health centres and pharmacies provide smoking cessation services, which include evidence based treatment.

These studies were based on large scale population with medication that has been proven to be safe and effective.

Nicotine replacement therapy (Nicorette) and Varenicline (Champix) have been used by those who wanted to quit smoking, and they have done so.

Interestingly, there is not much evidence supporting e-cigarette use as

an alternative method for smoking cessation.

Recently, the Institute of Public Health, Health Ministry, conducted a survey on the use of e-cigarettes among adolescents and adults in Malaysia (The Tobacco and E-cigarette Survey among Malaysia Adolescents and The National E Cigarette Survey 2016). The results were disturbing.

The majority of those who use e-cigarette are dual users. This means that they smoke cigarettes and e-cigarette.

This is hazardous as it may result in nicotine overdose, which can lead to death. This can strengthen their addiction to nicotine, which hooked them to cigarettes in the first place.

Almost 70 per cent of the dual users stopped e-cigarette but continued smoking conventional cigarettes. Most school children and adolescents started using e-cigarettes out of curiosity.

The main pull factors were the flavours and smell of e-liquids. Many other dangerous substances can be introduced by drug pushers and dealers by just lacing the liquids.

Nearly 75 per cent of the study population felt that e-cigarettes were not useful to stop smoking and more than half wanted these to be banned.

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