

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kekal insentif khidmat kritikal: CUEPACS

Persatuan hantar nota bantahan kepada Perdana Menteri minggu lalu

Oleh Mohd Iskandar Ibrahim
mohd_iskandar@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Kongres Kesatuan Pekerja-Pekerja Dalam Perkhidmatan Awam (CUEPACS) meminta kerajaan mengekalkan Bayaran Insentif Perkhidmatan Kritikal (BIPK) bagi 33 skim perkhidmatan.

Menyifatkan keputusan kerajaan memansuhkan BIPK itu akan menimbulkan keresahan terhadap penjawat awam, Presidennya, Adnan Mat, berkata, CUEPACS sudah menghantar nota bantahan berhubung perkara berkenaan kepada Perdana Menteri, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, minggu lalu.

Katanya, CUEPACS turut menghantar permohonan kepada Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA) bagi mengadakan pertemuan dan

perbincangan berhubung perkara itu.

"CUEPACS tidak setuju dengan keputusan ini dan tidak dimaklumkan mengenainya.

"Justeru, kami meminta kerajaan mengekalkan BIPK kerana perkhidmatan yang terbabit itu amat kritikal dan skop teras.

"Kita sudah menghantar nota bantahan kepada Perdana Menteri dan surat permohonan untuk diadakan perbincangan dengan JPA. Kami berharap keputusan ini dikaji semula," katanya pada sidang media di sini, semalam.

JPA dalam satu kenyataan sebelum ini memaklumkan pemanusiaan BIPK hanya membabitkan pelantikan baharu mulai 1 Januari 2020.

BIPK sedia ada tidak terjejas dan akan terus menikmati pem-



Adnan Mat menunjukkan nota bantahan yang dihantar kepada Perdana Menteri pada sidang media perarikan balik Elaun Insentif Perkhidmatan Kritikal (BIPK), di Wisma CUEPACS. (Foto Mohd Yusni Ariffin/BH)

Kami meminta kerajaan mengekalkan BIPK kerana perkhidmatan yang terbabit itu amat kritikal dan skop teras.

Adnan Mat,
Presiden CUEPACS

bayaran secara Khas Untuk Penyanggah (KUP) mengikut kadar sedia ada yang dinyatakan dalam Surat Pekeliling Perkhidmatan Bilangan 17 Tahun 2007 sehingga meninggalkan perkhidmatan.

Adnan berkata, walaupun pemsuhan itu membabitkan pelantikan baharu, keputusan itu dilihat tidak wajar kerana akan menimbulkan suasana tidak harmoni dalam kalangan pen-

jawat awam.

"Keputusan kerajaan ini boleh menyebabkan wujud *double standard* antara kakitangan lama dan baharu kerana mereka melakukan pekerjaan yang sama namun mendapat upah berbeza.

"Sudah tentu perkara ini dilihat tidak adil. Kami sekali lagi meminta kerajaan mengkaji semula keputusan (mansuh BIPK) dan meminta ia dikekalkan," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kekal insentif khidmat kritikal: CUEPACS

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AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Larangan merokok

Fokus waktu malam, luar bandar

5,000 pegawai penguat kuasa pantau lokasi

Oleh Amin Ridzuan Ishak aminridzuan@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Seramai 5,000 pegawai Kementerian Kesihatan digerakkan di seluruh negara untuk menguatkuasakan larangan merokok di kawasan tidak dibenarkan, termasuk tempat makan, bermula tengah malam tadi.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Dr Lee Boon Chye, berkata pegawai dari bahagian Kesihatan Persekitaran Kementerian Kesihatan akan memantau semua lokasi larangan merokok yang dikuatkuasakan mengikut Peraturan Kawalan Hasil Tembakau (PP-KHT) 2004.

Yakin dengan bilangan pegawai itu, beliau berkata, kebanyakan restoran di seluruh negara mematuhi peraturan wajib memasang notis larangan merokok.

Katanya, kadar merokok di tempat makan turut berkurangan sejak Kementerian Kesihatan mewartakannya sebagai kawasan larangan merokok berkuat kuasa 1 Januari 2019.

"Kita akan meningkatkan penguatkuasaan waktu malam dan di luar bandar berikutan ramai tidak mematuhi larangan merokok pada masa serta lokasi berkenaan.

"Itu akan menjadi fokus utama pemantauan selepas ini.

"Orang ramai boleh memberikan maklumat menerusi saluran disediakan sekiranya ada melihat individu atau pemilik premis melanggar larangan berkenaan.

"Kita sudah memberi ruang sejak setahun lalu dan sepatutnya semua individu serta pemilik premis seperti tempat makan me-

Tempat larangan merokok

 Taman awam dengan pokok dan bangku	 Tempat orang berkumpul	 Taman permainan kanak-kanak	 Premis kerajaan	 Lapangan terbang	 Dalam rumah semua kawasan makan, tempat tidur, bilik dan bilik air, kecuali bilik mandi dan bilik air di dalam rumah tinggal atau rumah majlis
 Pusat hiburan atau pusat keseronokan	 Hospital dan klinik	 Lid atau bandar awam	 Bas sekolah	 Kafe internet	 Perpustakaan
 Tempat latihan	 Stesen minyak	 Kawasan dipantau untuk keselamatan awam	 Stadium, kompleks sukan, pusat membeli-belah dan pusat keseronokan	 Institut pendidikan tinggi	 Di mana semua bilik mempunyai kaunter perkhidmatan dalam bangunan
 Kompleks membeli-belah	 Taman permainan kanak-kanak	Bermula 1 Januari 2020, semua premis makanan termasuk tempat makan terbuka juga diwartakan kawasan larangan merokok.			
Aduan boleh dihantar menerusi aplikasi WhatsApp dan telegram di talian 010-8608949 atau menghubungi 03-88924530 (pada waktu pejabat). Perlu menghantar nama kedai lokasi/alamat kedai dan jenis kesalahan					

Larangan merokok

Bagaimana aduan boleh dibuat

Nama dan alamat lokasi

Gambar perokok sedang merokok dalam premis

Waktu dan tarikh dirakamkan

Tiada papan tanda larangan merokok dalam premis

mahaminya," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini, semalam.

Bermula hari ini, individu merokok di kawasan larangan, termasuk semua tempat makan akan dikenakan kompaun RM250 dan kadar itu boleh dikurangkan kepada RM150 bagi kesalahan pertama dan dijelaskan di Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah dalam tempoh sebulan dari tarikh izin kompaun diterima.

Bagi kesalahan kedua, tiada pengurangan kompaun diberikan dan bayaran penuh kompaun RM250 akan dikenakan, manakala kompaun lebih tinggi, iaitu RM350 bagi mereka melakukan kesalahan kali ketiga dan seterusnya.

Pemilik premis harus memastikan tempat makan bebas daripada amalan merokok dengan tidak menyediakan kemudahan se-

perti bekas abu rokok, penjualan shisha serta kemudahan lain berkaitan.

Pemilik premis boleh dikompaun RM250 bagi kesalahan pertama dan kedua, manakala bagi kesalahan ketiga dan seterusnya, kompaun RM350 akan dikenakan.

Selain pemantauan dilakukan pegawai penguat kuasa, Kementerian Kesihatan turut menyen-

diakan saluran untuk orang ramai membuat aduan menerusi WhatsApp di talian 010-8608949 atau menghubungi talian 03-88924530.

Orang ramai perlu memaklumkan nama premis, lokasi/alamat dan jenis kesalahan, selain menyertakan gambar pesalah merokok dalam premis.

Peniaga tampal notis peringatan kepada pelanggan



Pekerja restoran menampal notis larangan merokok (Foto Asyraf Hamzah/BH)

Kuala Lumpur: Peniaga membuat persediaan susulan penguatkuasaan larangan merokok di semua premis makanan, bermula hari ini.

Tinjauan BH di ibu negara semalam mendapati, kebanyakan mereka memasang notis larangan merokok dalam premis sebagai peringatan kepada pelanggan.

Pemilik restoran, Sivamani Marudan, 62, berkata notis berkenaan dipasang sejak enam bulan yang lalu.

"Saya bersetuju penguatkuasaan undang-undang ini kerana ia memberi keselesaan kepada pelanggan lain," katanya.

Pekerja restoran, Fazil Ahmad,

32, berkata tindakan tegas akan diambil, termasuk meminta pelanggan merokok supaya meninggalkan premis.

Katanya, notis larangan merokok ditampal perlu dihormati dan dipatuhi semua pelanggan.

"Saya bimbang restoran didenda jika ada pelanggan merokok," katanya.

Sementara itu, pengusaha premis makanan di sekitar Shah Alam dan Klang bersedia dengan penguatkuasaan larangan merokok bermula hari ini.

Pengusaha restoran, Mohd Nasrullah Alias Mat Rani, 25, berkata larangan itu tidak membahayakan perniagaannya, malah menjadi-

kan premis bersih dan tidak mengganggu pelanggan.

"Sebaik kerajaan umum, saya terus pasang papan tanda larangan merokok di kedai," katanya.

Di Ipoh, sebanyak 5,330 atau 33 peratus premis makanan dikesan belum menampal papan tanda larangan merokok sepanjang tempoh penguatkuasaan pendidikan dijalankan.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan, Hal Ehwal Pengguna, Integrasi Nasional dan Sumber Manusia Perak, A Sivanesan, berkata pihaknya sudah menjalankan pemeriksaan terhadap 15,902 premis makanan di seluruh negeri ini sepanjang tempoh itu.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kes guna bahan pengawet lebihi piawaian

Syarikat roti kena denda RM5,000

Kuala Pilah: Mahkamah Sesyen di sini semalam, menjatuhkan hukuman denda RM5,000 terhadap sebuah syarikat pengeluar roti, selepas didapati bersalah menjual roti putih yang mengandungi bahan pengawet atau Asid Propionik melebihi kadar dibenarkan.

Hakim Nariman Badruddin menjatuhkan hukuman itu selepas Pengurus Syarikat Newly Ten Food Industries Sdn Bhd dari Nusajaya, Johor, Tan Soh Lay, 51, mengaku bersalah selepas pertuduhan dibacakan oleh jurubahasa mahkamah.

Mengikut pertuduhan, syarikat itu menjual dua bungkus roti putih jenama CSH melalui Ooi

Chai Beng kepada pegawai berkuasa dari Pejabat Kesihatan Jempol untuk dianalisa di Bahau Zeemart Sdn Bhd, Pusat Perniagaan Kiara, Bahau jam 4.57 petang pada 17 Julai lalu.

Bagaimanapun, selepas dianalisa, roti itu didapati mengandungi bahan pengawet atau Asid Propionik pada kadar 2,395 miligram iaitu melebihi piawaian ditetapkan sebanyak 2,000 miligram sekali gus bertentangan dengan Peraturan 65(2)(a) Peraturan-Peraturan Makanan 1985.

Oleh itu syarikat itu didakwa mengikut Seksyen 13B(4) Akta Makanan 1983 dan jika sabit kesalahan boleh didenda maksi-

Fakta Nombor

2,395
miligram

bahan pengawet digunakan dalam roti putih CSH

2,000
miligram

piawaian bahan pengawet yang dibenarkan

mum RM20,000 atau penjara tidak lebih lima tahun atau kedua-duanya sekali.

Pendakwaan dijalankan oleh Pegawai Pendakwa Pejabat Kesihatan Jempol, Vivig Dinesh manakala syarikat itu tidak diwakili peguam.

Vivig memohon supaya mahkamah mengenakan hukuman berat dengan mengambil kira kepentingan awam berikutan lebih bahan pengawet boleh menyebabkan implikasi kesihatan kepada organ dalaman manusia untuk jangka masa panjang.

Mahkamah kemudian menatapkan syarikat itu didenda RM5,000 dan jika gagal bayar boleh dipenjarakan selama sebulan.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 32

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Golongan berisiko dinasihati ambil suntikan influenza

Kuala Lumpur: Golongan berisiko seperti warga emas, kanak-kanak dan mereka yang mempunyai penyakit kronik tertentu digalakkan mendapatkan suntikan pelalian vaksin influenza bermusim di fasiliti kesihatan swasta di seluruh negara bagi mengelakkan jangkitan virus itu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata komplikasi akibat jangkitan influenza teruk yang dialami golongan berisiko tinggi itu berpotensi menyebabkan kematian.

Justeru, beliau mengingatkan orang ramai supaya sentiasa mengekalkan tahap kebersihan diri yang tinggi, kerap membasuh tangan menggunakan air dan sabun atau 'hand sanitizer', mengamalkan adab batuk yang baik dan cara hidup sihat.

Dr Noor Hisham turut menasihati mereka yang mempunyai gejala jangkitan influenza mematuhi beberapa langkah, antaranya berehat di rumah dan elak mengunjungi tempat tumpuan ramai.

"Sekiranya perlu ke tempat awam, mereka dinasihati memakai penutup hidung dan mulut dengan betul bagi mengelakkan penularan jangkitan melalui titisan pernafasan.

"Mereka yang dijangkiti influenza perlu menutup hidung dan mulut dengan tisu, tuala atau sapu tangan apabila batuk atau bersin dan membuangnya segera dalam tong sampah serta elak berkongsi barangan peribadi seperti tuala, sapu tangan dan sebagainya.

"Segera berjumpa doktor untuk pemeriksaan dan rawatan lanjut jika gejala bertambah teruk seperti demam dan batuk serta sakit tekak yang berterusan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Jelas beliau, demam selesema sangat mudah berjangkit, penularannya lebih mudah berlaku di tempat yang padat seperti sekolah, asrama, tempat kerja tertutup, institusi latihan serta kem tentera dan polis.

Wabak akibat virus influenza bermusim hanya menyebabkan demam selesema yang ringan kepada orang biasa tetapi boleh menyebabkan jangkitan teruk kepada kumpulan berisiko tinggi seperti kanak-kanak, warga tua, wanita mengandung dan pesakit kronik seperti kencing manis, darah tinggi dan lelah, malah berpotensi menyebabkan kematian.

Dr Noor Hisham menegaskan, Kementerian Kesihatan memandangkan serius penyebaran berita mengenai peningkatan kes penularan jangkitan influenza yang tular di media sosial sejak kebe-



Komplikasi akibat jangkitan influenza teruk yang dialami golongan berisiko tinggi berpotensi sebabkan kematian.

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan

lakangan ini.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, jangkitan itu tidak tertakluk kepada keperluan pelaporan atau notifikasi di bawah Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawasan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988 (Akta 342).

Berikutan itu, Kementerian Kesihatan tidak menyimpan rekod setiap kes jangkitan influenza di negara ini sekarang, tetapi masih memantunya menggunakan data proksi yang direkodkan survelan membabitkan beberapa lokasi sentinel dikenal pasti di seluruh negara.

"Di negara beriklim tropika seperti Malaysia, jangkitan influenza dilaporkan berlaku sepanjang tahun namun dalam julat yang kecil, berbanding negara beriklim sederhana dan sejuk, di mana jangkitan influenza ini berlaku secara bermusim khususnya pada musim sejuk.

"Justeru, pemantauan wabak influenza dilakukan sepanjang tahun bagi mengenal pasti jenis jangkitan influenza di Malaysia dan mengesan sekiranya terdapat perubahan luar biasa pada virus influenza ini," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, pemantauan survelan influenza meliputi kadar konsultasi kes gejala seperti Influenza (ILI) dan kadar kemasukan pesakit ke wad dengan Jangkitan Sindrom Pernafasan Yang Teruk (SARI).

"Makmal Kesihatan Awam Kebangsaan Sungai Buloh dan Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR) juga bertanggungjawab memantau sebarang perubahan kepada virus influenza yang terdapat di Malaysia," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Peningkatan jangkitan influenza masih dalam julat normal

KUALA LUMPUR - Peningkatan kes jangkitan influenza masih berada pada julat normal dan hampir sama dengan tahun-tahun sebelumnya.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yang mengambil maklum mengenai berita tular di media sosial mengenai peningkatan jangkitan itu berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan memantau influenza dengan menggunakan data proksi yang direkodkan daripada aktiviti surveilans melibatkan beberapa lokasi sentinel di seluruh negara.

Menurutnya, berdasarkan trend direkodkan daripada aktiviti surveilans tersebut, terdapat sedikit peningkatan kes Influenza Like-Illness (ILI) dan Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) sejak pertengahan bulan Disember ini.

“Namun begitu, peningkatan yang direkodkan masih berada dalam julat normal dan hampir sama dengan tahun-tahun sebelumnya.

“Begitu juga, tiada peningkatan ketara bagi kejadian wabak jangkitan saluran pernafasan dilaporkan dalam

tempoh yang sama,” katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Menurutnya, analisa terhadap virus influenza yang dikesan melalui pemantauan itu juga tidak menunjukkan sebarang tanda ia mengalami mutasi sehingga mencetuskan kemunculan virus influenza baharu.

Influenza merupakan jangkitan dengan gejala utama seperti demam selesema, sakit tekak, batuk dan gejala lain seperti sakit kepala, sakit otot, sakit sendi dan kelesuan.

- *Bernamea*

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 34

RUANGAN : SINAR NEGERI

Kes HFMD masih terkawal

JKN Perlis nafi dakwaan tular di media sosial

Oleh NORJULIANA YAACOB

KANGAR

Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) Perlis menafikan dakwaan tular di media sosial mengatakan kes berkaitan penyakit kaki, tangan dan mulut (HFMD) sedang merebak di negeri ini.

Pengarah JKN Perlis, Dr Sirajuddin Hashim menegaskan, dakwaan dibuat oleh seorang pengguna Facebook berkenaan kes HFMD di negeri ini adalah tidak tepat.

“Tindakan berkenaan sangat tidak bertanggungjawab kerana ia boleh



DR SIRAJUDDIN

mengusarkan masyarakat awam di Perlis.

“Pihak kami memiliki rekod bagi setiap pesakit yang menghidap penyakit berkenaan dan bilangannya tidaklah ramai seperti yang didakwa,” katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Beliau berkata, setakat ini kes HFMD di Perlis masih terkawal dan bilangan kes juga antara yang terendah jika dibandingkan dengan negeri lain.

“Jika ada kes yang membabitkan HFMD, langkah pengasingan dan pencegahan akan dikeluarkan kepada orang awam khususnya pesakit,” katanya.

Kelmarin menerusi satu akaun bernama Zaza Romli di Facebook mendakwa kanak-kanak di Perlis sedang dijangkiti wabak HFMD berikutan kekerapan melakukan aktiviti luar rumah pada musim cuti persekolahan.

Sementara itu, Dr Sirajuddin menasihatkan orang ramai agar peka akan keadaan anak mereka.

“Segera membawa anak ke klinik atau hospital berdekatan sekiranya anak mengalami gejala seperti demam; ruam di tapak tangan atau kaki dan ulser mulut ulser mulut,” katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 36

RUANGAN : SINAR NEGERI

Jangan bertindak kasar

Terhadap anggota yang lakukan penguatkuasaan larangan merokok

Oleh NORMAWATI ADNAN

IPOH

Orang awam diingatkan tidak sesekali bertindak kasar terhadap mana-mana anggota Jabatan Kesihatan yang mengeluarkan kompaun larangan merokok di premis makanan yang akan dikuatkuasakan sepenuhnya bermula hari ini.

Exco Kesihatan, Hal Ehwal Pengguna, Integrasi Nasional dan Sumber Manusia Perak, A Sivanesan berkata, tindakan menggunakan kekerasan seperti marah dan enggan memberi kerjasama itu boleh dianggap satu kesalahan serius.

“Pegawai dan anggota penguat kuasa kita hanya menjalankan tugas, jangan sesekali mengasari mereka, seeloknya apabila dikenakan kompaun, terima sahaja.

“Jika tidak puas hati dan mahu mencabar, lakukan mengikut undang-undang. Kita sedia terima apa juga aduan dan kes di mahkamah,” katanya pada sidang media selepas meninjau keadaan Medan Selera Dato’ Sagor bagi penguatkuasaan



Sivanesan bersama Dr Lay Ming mengedarkan tanda larangan merokok kepada pengusaha premis makanan ketika tinjauan ke Medan Selera Dato’ Sagor semalam.

pendidikan di tempat makan sebagai kawasan larangan merokok semalam.

Hadir sama, Pengarah Kesihatan negeri, Datuk Dr Ding Lay Ming.

Sivanesan berkata, pemantauan aktiviti yang dilakukan semasa penguatkuasaan pendidikan bermula 1 Januari hingga 30 Disember lepas berjaya mengesan 8,690 orang yang merokok di kawasan larangan.

Dalam tempoh sama katanya, sebanyak 6,105 notis pengingatan dikeluarkan kepada pengusaha premis dan individu atas kesalahan pewartaan itu dengan 5,330 premis makanan tiada tanda larangan merokok.

“Setakat ini, tiada laporan bawahan anggota kita dikasari, dalam

tempoh penguatkuasaan pendidikan itu juga hanya 52 aduan awam mengenai kesalahan perokok diterima dan semuanya dapat diselesaikan menerusi siasatan serta nasihat,” katanya.

Beliau turut berpuas hati dengan perubahan moral dan minda perokok-perokok di negeri ini apabila menghormati setiap kawasan larangan merokok.

“Kita harap sikap ini dikekalkan kerana selepas ini tiada lagi amaran diberikan sebaliknya terus kepada denda, anggota dan pegawai kita akan menjalankan penguatkuasaan 24 jam di lokasi-lokasi larangan merokok seluruh negeri,” katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

Cuepacs president Adnan Mat showing a copy of the objection notice it sent to Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the abolishment of the Critical Service Incentive Payment in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY MOHD YUSNI ARIFFIN



ABOLITION OF BIPK

Cuepacs sends objection to PM, PSD

KUALA LUMPUR: The Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) has sent an objection notice opposing the abolishment of the Critical Service Incentive Payment (BIPK) to Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Its president, Adnan Mat, said they had also sent a letter to the Public Service Department (PSD) requesting for a meeting to discuss the matter.

Adnan said the notice and the letter were sent to the prime minister and PSD last week.

“Many quarters in the civil services are still worried despite Youth and Sports Minister Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman announcing that the prime minister had agreed to postpone the abolition of BIPK.

“Hence, as a stakeholder in the government, we are seeking a meeting with PSD to discuss the matter and to express our views.

“Cuepacs was not informed or called in for a discussion over the abolishment of BIPK,” he said here yesterday.

In a circular dated Dec 20, PSD stated that BIPK for civil servants in 33 critical services schemes would be abolished for new appointments from today.

The announcement triggered criticism and cabinet ministers and leaders from both sides of the political divide objected to the move.

Recently, Syed Saddiq said Dr Mahathir had agreed to postpone BIPK’s abolition and that the decision would be made after a cabinet meeting this month.

Adnan hoped the government would not abolish BIPK.

“The abolishment would create double standards and disharmony in the public and civil services. It will lead to the creation of a conflict of sorts between the present (civil servants) and new appointments. That is why Cuepacs is of the opinion that the government should maintain BIPK.”

Adnan also hit out at certain quarters for questioning the loyalty of top office-bearers towards the Pakatan Harapan administration following the change in the federal government after the 14th General Election in 2018.

He said top office-bearers such as directors-general and secretaries-general were bound to carry out their duties although there was a change in the government.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

COMPLAINTS HOTLINE

5,000 officers to ensure none flouts smoking ban

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 5,000 personnel have been deployed by the Health Ministry nationwide to implement the no-smoking ban, which came into force at midnight yesterday.

Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye said the ministry's officers will be monitoring all no-smoking areas, including eateries, which come under Regulation 11 (1) (d) of the Tobacco Control Regulation (PPKHT) Regulations 2004 (amended) 2018.

He said many restaurants had since put up the mandatory no-smoking signs at their establishments.

He added that the number of smokers in eateries had seen a drastic reduction since the government gazetted those areas as no-smoking zones from Jan 1 last year.

"We will ramp up nighttime enforcement operations, including outside the city.

"This is because many people

tend to flout the ruling during the late hours.

"The public can also lodge complaints by channelling information through the right channels if they see any individuals or premises flouting the law.

"We have given them adequate time. By right, all individuals and owners of premises such as eateries should understand this already," he said.

Those caught smoking in no-smoking zones, including all eateries, will be issued a RM250 compound.

This can be reduced to RM50 if it is the first offence, and settled at the district health office within a month of the compound being issued.

No reductions will be given for the second offence, and offenders will have to pay the full amount.

Third time offenders will have to pay a compound of RM350.

Under the new ruling, eatery



A 'No Smoking' sign displayed on the wall of the Nasi Kandar Pelita restaurant in Taman Chai Leng, Prai. PIC BY SHAHNAZ FAZLIE SHAHRIZAL

owners must ensure that their premises are completely smoke-free.

They are also forbidden from providing amenities that enable smokers, including ashtrays or *shisha* services.

Proprietors must also ensure that the "no smoking" sign is dis-

played prominently and clearly in an area visible to all.

Failure to comply with the ruling can see business owners issued a compound of RM250 for the first and second offences, and RM350 for the third offence.

Those who wish to channel complaints or tip-offs to the

Health Ministry can do so via WhatsApp at 010 8608949 or by dialling 03 88924530.

The complaint or tip-off should include details such as the name of the outlet, its address and the type of offence as well as pictures of smokers puffing away in the premises.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

Eradicating stigma of mental illness

KUALA LUMPUR: The move by the government to decriminalise attempted suicide will eradicate the stigma associated with mental illnesses.

Malaysian Psychiatric Association patron Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said it would encourage people suffering from mental disorders to seek help and treatment.

Lee, a proponent of the move to review Section 309 of the Penal Code, which regulates attempted suicide as an offence, described the government's will to amend the legislation as a step forward in tackling mental illness, an issue that was becoming more commonplace worldwide.

"I am happy that the government is doing something about this issue.

"One of the biggest problems in addressing mental health issues is stigmatisation. People suffering from mental health are afraid to seek treatment because they fear the negative perception against them by society.

"Such stigmas can be eliminated if Section 309 (of the Penal Code) is repealed. People who attempt to commit suicide should be treated and not be punished," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Lee said in many cases, people suffering from mental illness, including depression, would develop suicidal tendencies if their health issues were left unchecked.

"If we could provide help and treatment for people suffering from mental illness, we could prevent them from having suicidal tendencies, planning and execution.

Lee reiterated his calls for the Health Ministry to be provided with all the support and resources to effectively address mental health issues. The resources, he

said, included having sufficient number of psychiatrists and trained counsellors at public hospitals and health clinics.

He cited a report which indicated there were not enough psychiatrists to help people with mental issues.

"In Malaysia, the ratio of psychiatrist to the population is 1:100,000, which is worrying," he said.

Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister Hannah Yeoh said decriminalisation was the best way to tackle attempted suicide cases since it was a health issue and not a crime.

Yeoh, a critic of Section 309 of the Penal Code, said people with health issues should be sent for medical treatment instead of being punished.

"We don't send people who are dealing with health issues to jail. We send them for medical assistance. This is to ensure that people with mental health challenges can be well again. They can feel better with the right support system. We must strive towards that because it is affecting 30 per cent of Malaysians," she told the *New Straits Times*.

It was reported that the Singaporean government had amended its laws to decriminalise attempted suicide.

Its Home Affairs Ministry and Law Ministry stated that these legislations would come into effect today as part of the Criminal Law Reform Act, which was passed in Parliament in May last year.

In Singapore, up to the end of last year, under Section 309 of the Penal Code, whoever attempted to commit suicide were liable to imprisonment for up to one year, a fine, or both.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Ministry eyes health financing system revamp

Healthcare reform proposal set to be presented to Cabinet soon

By LOH FOON FONG
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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia is expected to see a revamped health financing system if the Cabinet approves the healthcare reform proposal by the Health Ministry.

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said he planned to bring the Sihat Bersama (Health Together) 2030 proposal to the Cabinet before the end of this month.

A sustainable health financing system, public sector transformation through corporatisation and private sector regulatory reform are the three pillars outlined in Sihat Bersama 2030, a plan to transform the healthcare system.

"Unless you have the health financing system in place, there's no point in bringing reform in the government and private sector," Dzulkefly said in an interview with *The Star*.

He said Sihat Bersama 2030, which is the health sector's version of the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, would enhance existing healthcare services and address issues such as the lack of funds, long waiting period, lack of medical staff, the burden of non-communicable diseases and an ageing population.

"It is a comprehensive plan that will address the health systems and healthcare delivery issues in the country," Dzulkefly added.

He said the purpose of the healthcare financing reform was twofold – to increase pooled and prepaid health financing in a sustainable, diversified manner that is equitable and affordable for households and employers, and to establish a well-governed health financing institution.

If approved by the Cabinet, a task force would be set up to look into implementation studies and communication strategies, he said.

Asked when the ministry would provide the details for public feedback, he said this would happen once the proposal was approved by the Cabinet.

Meanwhile, corporatisation is expected to transform the public sector to become more empowered, agile and responsive.

In Sihat Bersama 2030, the electronic medical record (EMR) system that stores the records of patients in public health facilities nationwide would be introduced nationwide to cut down waiting times and enhance patient care and population health, he said.

He said the EMR would be made accessible to private medical centres too, and could be used for research and decision-making on



public health issues, and that the ministry would request proposals from the private sector to undertake the project this year.

Meanwhile, the price control mechanism and pool procurement of medicine would be rolled out by mid-year, he said.

On other measures this year, Dzulkefly said housemanship training would be reduced from 24 months to 18 months, and there would be five postings for training instead of six.

He also hoped to address service delivery issues such as reducing the waiting time and congestion in public health facilities by setting up 20 clinics, having more clinics with extended hours and expanding the use of e-registration and e-wallet payments.

The government will also increase the number of virtual clinics from the current five, while selected follow-up cases could use the virtual clinics manned by the same doctors.

On the concern over polio, the ministry has discussed with its Filipino counterpart about addressing the issue of stateless children in Sabah and the Philippines has agreed to fund polio vaccination of the children, with Unicef providing the cheaper vaccine that will be administered by NGOs.

The ministry has put in place a real-time surveillance dashboard to monitor disease outbreaks, hotspots, as well as facilities and doctors available.

When needed, district health officers would go to the ground to immunise the population at the hotspots, Dzulkefly added.

As mentioned in the Budget 2020 announcement, pneumococcal vaccination will be rolled out this year, though no specific date has been set.

Meanwhile, the government will also expand the Skim Peduli Kesihatan (Peka B40) coverage to include individuals aged 40 and above from the low-income (B40) group.

Peka B40 provides health screenings and early intervention for non-communicable diseases such as cancer and mental health problems, and currently covers those aged 50 to 60.

A National Strategic Action Plan on Mental Health (2020-2025) will also be launched this year.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : NATION

No to 'blood sugar' headphones

Ministry orders company to stop selling unregistered device

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry has ordered a company distributing headphones that allegedly reduce and control blood sugar levels to stop the sale of the device immediately.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the safety and efficacy of the device could not be verified as a review by the Medical Device Authority and that it was not registered under the Medical Device Act.

As such, he said, the sale and distribution of the device should be stopped immediately until it was approved under Section 5 of the Act and the company obtained a valid establishment licence under Section 6 of the same Act.

"According to legal requirements,

“Any medical claim made must be supported by scientific and clinical evidence.

Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

a medical device to be imported, exported and placed in the market must first be registered under Section 5 of the Act.

"In the process of registering, the level of safety and its effectiveness will be evaluated and verified.

"Any medical claim made must be supported by scientific and clinical evidence, then the device must meet the principles of safety and effectiveness," he said in a statement yesterday.

This was in response to an article titled "Headphones help lower diabetes patients' sugar levels" reported in a portal dated Dec 20, prompting public concerns about its safety and effectiveness.

Dr Noor Hisham said the sale and distribution of unregistered medical devices or without a valid establishment licence is an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding RM200,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or both.

Any form of medical claims related to a medical device being aired

for advertising purposes must also comply with advertising requirements laid down under Section 44 of the same Act and the Medical Device (Advertising) Regulations 2019.

Dr Noor Hisham said any person who makes a false or misleading claim about a medical device in the advertisement is guilty and, upon conviction, could be fined not more than RM300,000 or imprisonment for not more than three years or both.

The public are urged to seek the advice of registered health professionals before using any device.

They should also verify the registration status of the device by checking the Medical Device Authority portal at <https://portal.mda.gov.my> — Bernama

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : VIEWS

Go on, enjoy your ciggies

THIS new year sees the enforcement of the smoking ban at eateries. All the necessary procedures to implement the ban have been followed so the authorities must go ahead with it now. Educational enforcement began on Jan 1, 2019, therefore smokers should be fully aware of where they can still enjoy their ciggies.

Smokers can actually still smoke in many places in Malaysia. It's only the public places mentioned in the Tobacco Control Regulations that must be avoided.

Everybody must move with the times, including smokers. Since 2014, there has been much evidence linking smoking to many diseases and deaths and mounting evidence of the effects of second-hand smoke on health, including as a possible cause of cancer. There is also evidence that third-hand smoke sticks to furniture. Naturally non-smokers demand a right to clean air and clean furniture!

So smokers, relax and continue to enjoy your ciggies in the designated areas. Just be prepared for the medical bills.

DR MYMOON ALIAS (president)
DR SITI NURBAYA SHAHRIR
Malaysian Association for
Adolescent Health