

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : MUKA DEPAN



Empat lelaki didakwa kes serang Syed Saddiq

Muka 17

Pesara didenda RM5,000 sebar berita palsu jangkitan COVID-19

Muka 2

Pemandu Myvi direman tiga hari kes budak tercampak atas lebu raya

Muka 15

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COVID-19 di Malaysia terkawal

Kementerian Kesihatan menjelaskan situasi jangkitan COVID-19 masih dalam kawalan dan berada pada Tahap Pembendungan Awal, di sebalik kenyataan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) yang menasihatkan Malaysia membuat persediaan bagi kemungkinan penyebaran lebih meluas.

Malaysia sudah bersedia memperkukuhkan kesiapsiagaan bagi menghadapi kemungkinan memasuki fasa Tahap Pembendungan Akhir dan Tahap Mitigasi. Sejak 2 hari lalu tiada kes baharu dikesan, jumlah kes positif kekal 18.

Muka 2, 4

Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, Menteri Kesihatan

(Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah / BH)



Perbelanjaan swasta, pasaran buruh kukuh tampung kesan COVID-19 kepada ekonomi Muka 42, 43



Dapatkan sisipan Varsiti di dalam!

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 2
 RUANGAN : MUKA DUA

Muka Dua

Pesara didenda RM5,000 sebar berita palsu

Sandakan: Seorang pesara Jabatan Keretapi Negeri Sabah menjadi individu pertama, dihukum kerana menyebarkan berita palsu berkaitan jangkitan coronavirus, COVID-19, apabila didenda RM5,000 atau 10 bulan penjara, selepas mengaku bersalah terhadap perbuatan itu di Mahkamah Majistret di sini, semalam.

Majistret Suhaila Selag menjatuhkan hukuman itu ke atas Aliudin Amit, 67, selepas dia mengaku bersalah atas pertuduhan secara sadar mengedarkan satu kenyataan menerusi aplikasi WhatsApp, mengatakan seorang banduan meninggal dunia kerana COVID-19 di Penjara Sandakan.

Kesalahan itu dilakukan di Lot 70, Jalan Selunsung, Taman Sempelang, Kota Kinabalu pada 9.34 malam, 23 Januari lalu.

Edaran kenyataan itu dibaca pegawai di Pejabat Timbalan Penguasa Jabatan Penjara Sandakan jam 10.46 pagi pada 24 Januari.

Aliudin didakwa mengikut Seksyen 505 (b) Kanun Keseksaan yang memperuntukkan hukuman penjara maksimum dua tahun atau boleh dikenakan denda atau kedua-duanya, jika sabit kesalahan.

Dalam rayuannya, Aliudin, yang tidak diwakili peguam bela, berjanji tidak akan mengulangi kesalahan itu dan bertegas tidak

berniat mengaibkan sesiapa atau perbuatannya itu.

Timbalan Pendakwa Raya Franklin Ganggan Bennet memberitahu mahkamah, rayuan itu bukan faktor utama untuk pertimbangan hukuman ringan.

Sebaliknya, beliau berhujah, mahkamah perlu mengutamakan kepentingan awam berikutan kesalahan dilakukan tertuduh adalah serius dan boleh menyebabkan ketakutan dan kekusaran dalam kalangan masyarakat. Aliudin membayar denda itu.

Sementara itu, Timbalan Pengarah Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Bukit Aman (Risikan dan Operasi), Datuk Mohd Roze Shaari, berkata polis membuka satu lagi kertas siasatan berhubung penyebaran berita tidak sahih mengenai jangkitan COVID-19 menerusi media sosial, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan setakat ini 23 kes.

Katanya, kertas siasatan baharu itu membabitkan kes di Tumpat, Kelantan.

"Setakat ini, tiga kes telah diduduh di mahkamah masing-masing di Kuala Lumpur, Terengganu dan Sabah," katanya sambil menasihatkan orang ramai untuk tidak berkongsi sebarang kenyataan ataupun artikel tidak sahih berkaitan dengan jangkitan Covid-19. BERNAMA



Dr Dzulkefly (dua dari kanan) bersama Boon Chye (tengah) dan Dr Noor Hisham (kanan) ketika sidang media di Putrajaya, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

Penularan COVID-19

KKM perkukuh kesiapsiagaannya

Persediaan dipertingkatkan kemungkinan masuk Tahap Pembendungan Akhir, Mitigasi

Oleh Samadi Ahmad
 bhnews@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Penilaian Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) terhadap situasi jangkitan coronavirus baharu, COVID-19 di negara ini, mendapati ia masih dalam kawalan dan berada pada tahap Pembendungan Awal.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata kementerian juga bersedia dan terus memperkukuhkan kesiapsiagaannya bagi menghadapi kemungkinan ia memasuki fasa seterusnya iaitu Tahap Pembendungan Akhir dan Tahap Mitigasi.

Beliau menyifatkan keseluruhan episod jangkitan COVID-19 di negara ini, setakat ini ditangani dengan baik oleh Kementerian Kesihatan dan Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA) dipengerusikan Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Katanya, kenyataan WHO bahawa jangkitan COVID-19 akan berleluasa, perlu dilihat dalam konteks sewajarnya kerana Malaysia belum lagi sampai ke tahap itu.

"WHO menasihatkan Kerajaan Malaysia membuat persediaan terhadap kemungkinan penyebaran lebih meluas COVID-19 yang sudah menjangkiti puluhan

ribu orang dan meragut nyawa lebih 1,000 mangsa di China.

"Kita belum sampai tahap disebutkan WHO itu. Jika sampai tahap itu, kita bersedia menghadapinya. Jangkitan kluster ini ditangani KKM dan NADMA dengan baik," katanya pada sidang media mengenai situasi terkini jangkitan COVID-19 di Malaysia di kementeriannya, hari ini.

Yang turut hadir Timbalannya, Dr Lee Boon Chye dan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata demikian ketika mengulas kenyataan Pengarah Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) Bagi Rantau Pasifik Barat, Dr Takeshi Kasai, pagi semalam, yang menasihati Malaysia bersiap sedia menghadapi kemungkinan berlakunya penyebaran virus lebih luas.

Dalam kenyataannya, Dr Takeshi berkata, virus itu ketika ini berada 'di persimpangan yang kritikal' kerana sudah ada kes positif COVID-19 langsung tiada hubungan dengan China.

Beliau berkata, walaupun virus itu dilihat lebih mudah merebak berbanding data awal, ia tidak bermaksud virus berkenaan sudah merebak di Malaysia.

"Ketika negara dunia berusaha mengawal virus ini, kita mesti bersedia sekiranya COVID-19 merebak dengan lebih luas. Tindakan harus bermula hari ini kerana persiapan memerlukan masa, terutama bagi memastikan tindak balas sampai kepada seluruh rakyat Malaysia.

"Sekiranya wabak ini terus merebak, fokus utama adalah melindungi mereka yang mudah dijangkiti dan meminimumkan impak terhadap kesihatan dan sosial.

Jika kita tidak bersedia seka-

rang, kita tidak akan mampu melaksanakan pelan ketika kita memerlukan nanti," katanya.

Dr Takeshi berkata, sekiranya berlaku wabak yang meluas, semua pihak perlu memastikan fasiliti kesihatan memberi tumpuan kepada merawat mereka yang terjejas dan kes yang parah.

"Ini mungkin bermaksud menggalakkan individu yang mempunyai simptom ringan untuk duduk di rumah, berbanding mengasing atau kuarantin mereka.

"Pendekatan itu membuatkan fasiliti kesihatan tidak sesak. Langkah seterusnya adalah memastikan fasiliti kesihatan tidak menjadi tempat pembiakan virus ini, sekali gus menjangkiti staf dan pesakit lain," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut kenyataannya itu, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, kenyataan Dr Takeshi mungkin menyebabkan berlaku ketidpercayaan dalam kalangan rakyat negara ini.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan akan bekerjasama dengan semua pihak, termasuk swasta dan pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) bagi memberikan komitmen dalam menangani penularan COVID-19.

"Selain itu, kerajaan juga akan terus mempertingkatkan kerjasama antara negara ASEAN dan peringkat antarabangsa bagi memastikan penularan wabak ini dapat ditangani secara bersepadu membabitkan rentas sempadan," katanya.

Sementara itu, jumlah pesakit positif COVID-19 di Malaysia kekal 18 kes sejak Isnin lalu, iaitu lapan kes Patient-Under-Investigation (PUI); kontak rapat (8) dan dua dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia yang dibawa pulang dari Wuhan menerusi Misi Bantuan kemanusiaan.

Polis membuka satu lagi kertas siasatan berhubung penyebaran berita tidak sahih mengenai jangkitan COVID-19 menerusi media sosial, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan setakat ini adalah 23 kes.

Mohd Roze Shaari,
 Timbalan Pengarah Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Bukit Aman (Risikan dan Operasi)

Ibadat & Fadilat

Daripada Abu Hurairah, Rasulullah SAW bersabda: "Sesiapa yang menyembunyikan ilmu, dia akan dikelang dengan tali kekang yang diperbuat daripada api neraka pada hari Kiamat." (HR Ibn Hibban)

KAWASAN	SUBUH	ZUHUR	ASAR	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
Kangar	6:18	1:35	4:55	7:31	8:42
Alor Setar	6:17	1:35	4:55	7:31	8:42
P. Pinang	6:25	1:35	4:55	7:32	8:43
Ipoh	6:22	1:33	4:53	7:31	8:42
Kuala Lumpur	6:19	1:30	4:51	7:29	8:40
Shah Alam	6:19	1:30	4:50	7:29	8:40
Johor Bahru	6:08	1:22	4:41	7:22	8:33
Kuantan	6:12	1:25	4:44	7:24	8:35
Seremban	6:16	1:29	4:48	7:28	8:39
Bandar Melaka	6:15	1:28	4:47	7:28	8:39
Kota Bharu	6:14	1:28	4:48	7:24	8:31
K. Terengganu	6:14	1:24	4:44	7:21	8:32
Kota Kinabalu	5:14	12:32	3:52	6:29	7:40
Kuching	5:43	12:57	4:16	6:57	8:08

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

26 unit lagi pengimbas haba ditempatkan di pintu masuk

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan sudah menerima penambahan 26 unit pengimbas haba sebagai tambahan untuk ditempatkan pada pintu masuk negara bagi proses saringan pelancong dalam usaha mencegah jangkitan virus COVID-19.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata penambahan baharu itu menjadi kini ada 80 unit mesin pengimbas di pintu masuk negara.

Beliau berkata, Kementerian Kewangan komited menyediakan peruntukan untuk penambahan peralatan terbabit kerana ia sangat penting dalam fasa krisis COVID-19 ketika ini.

Masa sama, katanya, jumlah pesakit disahkan positif COVID-19 di negara ini, kekal 18 orang daripada seramai 550 individu yang menjalani ujian makmal setakat ini.

"Setakat ini jumlah kes disahkan positif COVID-19 kekal 18 orang dan tiada penambahan baharu," katanya pada sidang media mengenai situasi terkini jangkitan coronavirus itu di kementeriaannya semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Timbalannya, Dr Lee Boon Chye dan Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, pihaknya akan memperketatkan saringan di Kompleks Imigresen, Kastam dan Kuarantin (CIQ) bersempadan Singapura bagi mengawal COVID-19.

Katanya, perkara itu dibincangkan dengan pihak berkuasa Singapura dalam Jawatankuasa Kerja Bersama dibentuk Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dan Kementerian Kesihatan Singapura, susulan persidangan video semalam.

Katanya, seramai 300,000 pengguna melintas di laluan sempadan kedua-dua negara itu setiap hari bagi pelbagai tujuan termasuk urusan perniagaan.

"Mesyuarat pertama jawatankuasa itu akan diadakan dalam tempoh seminggu antara Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan kedua-dua negara," katanya.

Setakat ini jumlah kes disahkan positif COVID-19 kekal pada 18 orang dan tiada penambahan baharu.

Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad,
Menteri Kesihatan

Nasional

Penularan COVID-19

Kes kematian, jangkitan di China mulai menurun

45,171 orang terkena jangkitan dengan hanya 2,071 kes baharu dilaporkan

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Kuala Lumpur: Jumlah kematian dan jangkitan baharu akibat coronavirus 2019-nCoV, yang kini secara rasmi dikenali sebagai COVID-19 di China, mula menunjukkan penurunan sejak dua hari lalu.

Seramai 45,171 orang disahkan terkena jangkitan COVID-19 di China dengan 2,071 kes baharu dilaporkan kelmarin, termasuk 1,638 kes berlaku dalam wilayah Hubei, lokasi pertama virus itu dikesan pada Disember lalu.

Jumlah jangkitan itu menurun daripada 3,001 kes pada Ahad lalu kepada 2,546 kes pada Isnin dan turun kepada 2,071 kelmarin.

Jangkitan harian tertinggi di China, direkodkan pada 4 Februari lalu membabitkan 3,925 kes.

Suruhanjaya Kesihatan Kebangsaan China melaporkan, setakat petang kelmarin, angka kematian akibat wabak COVID-19 di negara itu, mencecah 1,115 orang, termasuk 97 lagi kematian berlaku kelmarin.

"Angka itu adalah penurunan dua hari berturut-turut dalam jumlah kematian harian, menyusuli angka kematian sebelumnya seramai 108 orang," katanya.

Di seluruh dunia, COVID-19 sudah merebak kepada 27 negara dengan jangkitan membabitkan lebih 330 orang dan menyebabkan dua kematian, kedua-dua warga China.

COVID-19 dipercayai muncul

COVID-19 nama rasmi 2019-nCoV

Kuala Lumpur: Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) mengumumkan, nama rasmi novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) ialah COVID-19 yang bermaksud 'Penyakit Virus Korona'.

Ketua Pengarah WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, menjelaskan bahawa 'CO' bermaksud 'corona'; 'VI' (virus) dan 'D' (penyakit).

"Mengikuti garis panduan dipersetujui di antara WHO, Pertubuhan Kesihatan Haiwan Se-



Pekerja di sebuah kilang, di Shanghai memakai topeng hidung dan mulut ketika bertugas.

(Foto REUTERS)

tahun lalu di sebuah pasar menjual binatang liar di ibu kota wilayah Hubei, Wuhan yang juga pusat penyebaran virus berkenaan.

Ketua Pengarah Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO), Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, berkata meskipun 99 peratus kes COVID-19 berlaku di China, tetapi ia masih kekal dalam situasi 'sangat darurat', kerana 'mempunyai ancaman yang sangat serius kepada seluruh dunia'.

Berucap pada hari pertama persidangan saintifik antarabangsa di Geneva, yang antara lain bakal melihat pilihan vaksin dalam menentang virus itu, Dr Tedros yakin terhadap peluang realistik untuk menghentikan wabak berkenaan.

"Kita yakin ada jalan ke arah itu. Kita mesti menggunakan kesempatan yang ada untuk berusaha bersungguh-sungguh dan bersatu dalam menentang virus ini dari segenap sudut.

"Jika tidak, kita bakal berdepan lebih banyak kes dan menghabiskan lebih banyak wang," katanya.

Kes harian COVID-19

Tarikh	Kes harian	Perubahan harian	Perubahan harian (%)
Feb. 11	2,071	-475	-19%
Feb. 10	2,546	-455	-15%
Feb. 9	3,001	325	12%
Feb. 8	2,676	-761	-22%
Feb. 7	3,437	274	9%
Feb. 6	3,163	-560	-15%
Feb. 5	3,723	-202	-5%
Feb. 4	3,925	686	21%
Feb. 3	3,239	402	14%
Feb. 2	2,837	233	9%
Feb. 1	2,604	477	22%
Jan. 31	2,127	119	6%
Jan. 30	2,008	253	14%
Jan. 29	1,755	278	19%
Jan. 28	1,477	-304	-17%
Jan. 27	1,781	996	127%
Jan. 26	785	87	12%
Jan. 25	698	226	48%
Jan. 24	472	206	77%
Jan. 23	266	133	100%

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : LOKAL



RM50 sehari

Individu dilindungi mySalam layak tuntutan bayaran hilang pendapatan jika dijangkiti Covid-19

Bernama

Putrajaya

Individu yang layak mendapatkan Skim Perlindungan Kesihatan Nasional mySalam namun didapati dijangkiti wabak Covid-19 layak menuntut bayaran gantian hi-

lang pendapatan bernilai RM50 sehari sehingga tempoh 14 hari.

Seorang pegawai Kementerian Kewangan berkata demikian semasa menjawab soalan media sama ada skim itu meliputi mereka yang dijangkiti Covid-19, ketika ditemui di majlis pelancaran skim mySalam lanjutan di sini,

semalam.

Pegawai itu turut mengatakan sekiranya pesakit itu dimasukkan ke wad akibat Covid-19, mereka boleh membuat tuntutan penyakit kritikal membolehkan pembayaran *one off* berjumlah RM8,000.

Sementara itu, skim mySalam lanjutan yang berkuat kuasa 1 Januari lalu

meliputi sembilan lagi penyakit kritikal termasuk polio, menjadikan jumlah penyakit yang diliputi kini adalah 45.

Menteri Kewangan Lim Guan Eng semasa majlis pelancaran itu berkata, skim lanjutan berkenaan turut membolehkan peningkatan had umur kepada 65 daripada 55 sebelum ini.

UIAM cuti 10 hari

Kuala Lumpur: Semua penuntut Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM) Kampus Gombak diarahkan bercuti selama 10 hari bermula hari ini sebagai langkah awal pencegahan koronavirus baharu atau Covid-19.

Universiti itu dalam kenyataannya memaklumkan pihaknya turut mengambil langkah melakukan pemeriksaan kesihatan ke atas penuntut baharu dan penuntut sedia ada dari China selain penuntut yang baru pulang dari negara berkenaan.

"Walaupun belum ada sebarang kes berkaitan virus itu dilaporkan di sini, namun pihak pengurusan membuat keputusan untuk menunda semua kelas di kampus Gombak bermula esok (hari ini) hingga 23 Februari ini sebagai langkah pencegahan awal.

"Semua penuntut boleh pulang ke kampung. Bagi penuntut yang memilih untuk berada di kampus dinasihatkan supaya mengambil langkah mengurangkan risiko jangkitan," katanya.



KAPAL persiaran Diamond Princess berlabuh di Daikoku Pier Cruise Terminal di Yokohama, Tokyo. Penumpang positif Covid-19 bakal dipindahkan dari kapal berkenaan untuk rawatan.



WARGA Hong Kong memakai topeng mulut di pusat bandar raya itu, semalam. Virus yang diberi nama Covid-19 setakat ini membunuh 1,000 mangsa.



ANGGOTA keselamatan China memakai sut perlindungan mengangkut cecair penyahkuman di luar bandar Xiaogan, Hubei, semalam.



Belum sampai tahap disebut WHO

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dan Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (Nadma) akan menangani dengan baik kes penyebaran wabak Covid-19.

Itu reaksi Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berhubung nasihat Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) supaya kerajaan Malaysia membuat persediaan bagi kemungkinan penyebaran virus itu lebih meluas.

Beliau berkata, negara memiliki keupayaan dalam pengurusan untuk menangani pengesanan dan pengesanan ujian sampel virus itu di 18 makmal awam dan lima makmal swasta.

"Kita belum sampai tahap disebutkan WHO itu, jika sampai tahap itu, kita bersedia menghadapinya.

"Jangkitan kluster ini ditangani KKM dan Nadma dengan baik," katanya.

Menurutnya, negara sudah membuat segala persiapan dan sekiranya perlu akan dipertingkatkan.

"Sebanyak 550 ujian sudah dijalankan hasil pengesanan kontak termasuk yang bergejala dan hanya 18 didapati positif virus itu," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kenyataan WHO bahawa jangkitan Covid-19 akan berleluasa perlu dilihat dalam konteks sewajarnya kerana Malaysia belum lagi sampai ke peringkat itu.

WHO menasihatkan kerajaan Malaysia membuat persediaan bagi kemungkinan penyebaran lebih meluas Covid-19 yang mengjangkiti puluhan ribu mangsa dan meragut lebih 1,114 nyawa di China.

KKM terima tambahan 26 pengimbas suhu

Putrajaya: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menerima tambahan 26 pengimbas suhu bagi mengenal pasti dan mengesan individu yang mempunyai gejala Covid-19.

Covid-19 yang bermaksud Penyakit Virus Korona adalah nama rasmi bagi novel koronavirus 2019 selepas diumumkan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) semalam.

Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, ia sekali gus menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan alat itu kepada 80 berban-

ding 54 alat pengimbas suhu sebelum ini.

"Peralatan berkenaan akan segera ditempatkan di semua pintu masuk negara," katanya dalam sidang media Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) berhubung situasi terkini jangkitan 2019-nCoV dan pengesanan kes baharu di Malaysia, semalam.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, katanya, Malaysia akan memperketatkan saringan di Kompleks Imigresen, Kastam dan Kuarantin (CIQ) bersempadan Singapura.

"Ia antara perkara kita

bincangkan dengan Singapura dalam jawatankuasa Kerja Bersama dibentuk KKM dan Kementerian Kesihatan Singapura susulan persidangan video kelmarin.

"Seramai 300,000 pengguna melintas di laluan sempadan kedua-dua negara setiap hari untuk rutin seperti perniagaan dan sebagainya.

"Mesyuarat pertama jawatankuasa itu akan diadakan dalam tempoh seminggu antara Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan kedua-dua negara," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : ANCAMAN COVID-19 DI CHINA

KKM terima 26 lagi pengimbas suhu

PUTRAJAYA - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menerima 26 penambahan pengimbas suhu dalam memerangi wabak koronavirus (Covid-19).

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, peralatan itu akan ditempatkan di pintu masuk antara-bangsa di seluruh negara.

"Kita baru terima dan akan segera menempatkannya di lokasi pintu masuk negara," katanya pada sidang media perkembangan terkini wabak

Covid-19 di sini semalam.

Dengan penambahan peralatan tersebut, ia menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan pengimbas suhu adalah sebanyak 80 unit.

Sebelum ini, KKM memohon peruntukan daripada Kementerian Kewangan bagi tujuan tersebut.

Peruntukan tersebut diluluskan serta-merta bagi memperkukuhkan saringan wabak itu di pintu masuk utama negara.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 13

RUANGAN : ANCAMAN COVID-19 DI CHINA

Malaysia sudah bersedia hadapi sebarang kemungkinan

PUTRAJAYA - Malaysia sudah bersedia dengan sebarang kemungkinan berikutan amaran dikeluarkan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) bahawa wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) dijangka tersebar dengan lebih meluas di rantau ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, pada peringkat ini, wabak itu ditangani oleh Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dan Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (Nadma) yang dipengerusikan oleh Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

"Situasi negara sekarang tidak berada dalam keadaan yang disebutkan oleh WHO. Sekiranya berada di tahap itu, kita bersedia menanganinya," katanya pada sidang media perkembangan terkini Covid-19 di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian sebagai respons kenyataan Pengarah WHO Pasifik Barat, Dr Takeshi Kasai yang memberi amaran kepada negara serantau termasuk Malaysia bahawa virus itu ketika ini berada 'di persimpangan yang kritikal' kerana sudah terdapat kes positif Covid-19 yang langsung tiada hubungan dengan China.

Mengulas mengenai saranan WHO supaya sekolah ditutup dan sebarang perjumpaan ditunda, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, tiada keperluan untuk berbuat demikian.

"Kerajaan akan sentiasa menyemak dan menilai situasi semasa dan ia akan menjadi tanggungjawab untuk mengkaji semula tindakan mengikut perkembangan terkini," katanya.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, kerajaan mempunyai keupayaan dalam pengurusan menangani pengesanan dan pengesanan ujian sampel Covid-19 di 18 makmal awam.

"Lima lagi makmal ditangani oleh pihak swasta. Jadi jumlah keseluruhan 23 makmal," katanya.

Menurutnya, KKM telah menjalankan 550 ujian terhadap sampel yang diambil daripada kontak rapat kes positif wabak itu termasuk yang bergejala.

"Daripada jumlah itu, hanya 18 didapati positif," katanya.



Dr Dzulkefly (dua, kanan) pada sidang media di Putrajaya semalam berhubung situasi terkini Covid-19.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : FRONT PAGE



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 2
 RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

NEWS / Story of the day



Technicians testing samples taken from people for the Covid-19 coronavirus at a laboratory in Shenyang, China, yesterday. AFP PIC

COVID-19

'FOCUS ON PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE'

All countries must prepare for the possibility of wider transmission, says WHO official

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COUNTRIES in the region, including Malaysia, have been advised to prepare for the possibility of a wider transmission of the Covid-19 virus after latest information suggested that the virus may be more transmissible than earlier data had shown.

World Health Organisation (WHO) regional director for the Western Pacific Dr Takeshi Kasai said while a majority of the cases were in China, the virus had been confirmed in many parts of the world.

He added that there were now reports of "clusters of cases with no apparent link to China".

"Our region is at a critical juncture in the Covid-19 outbreak. While we must continue efforts to contain its spread, it is also time that all countries, including Malaysia, prepare for the possibility of wider transmission.

"We must be ready in case there

is a wider spread. This requires action today because preparation takes time, especially to ensure that the response reaches everyone in all parts of the country," he said yesterday.

Dr Takeshi said this would require shifting the focus to protect the vulnerable and minimise the health and social impact.

"If we don't prepare now, we will not be able to activate those plans when they are needed.

"For example, in case of a wider community transmission, we will need to ensure health facilities can focus on treating the most vulnerable and severe cases.

"This may mean switching from medically isolating or quarantining everyone infected to encouraging people with mild illness to stay at home to recover so that health-care facilities do not become overwhelmed.

"Steps must also be taken to ensure that health facilities do not become places that amplify the spread of the virus, infecting staff and other patients."

He said countries must be ready to make the switch from testing all suspected cases and tracing the contacts of every person who had the virus to applying

limited testing to monitor geographical spread and trends, and use the information to inform decisions about the most appropriate public health response.

Among measures to be considered are the closing of schools and postponing mass gatherings to reduce opportunities for the virus to spread.

"I understand why people are worried as this is a new disease and there is much we don't know. The best thing we can do is to be prepared."

Dr Takeshi also advised people to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly.

"If you are coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your elbow. Keep your distance — we recom-

mend at least one metre — from people who are unwell.

"If you're sick, stay at home, so you don't risk infecting others and seek medical care if you have trouble breathing," he said, adding that WHO would continue to support Malaysia and other countries in their preparedness and response efforts.

Up to yesterday, there were 44,787 reported cases in 25 countries, with 1,112 deaths.

Malaysia has 18 confirmed cases.



Dr Takeshi Kasai

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

BREAK

DZULKEFLY: NOT YET AT CRISIS POINT

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THE Covid-19 virus outbreak in Malaysia has not reached a crisis level and is under control. According to the World Health Organisation's call for countries to be prepared for transmission of the virus, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the situation in the country did not warrant a call.

"We should take this (advice) in perspective but from our observation of the situation, we believe we have not reached this stage. If we do come to this stage, we are prepared," he said.

Dr Dzulkefly said the situation has been managed by the National Disaster Management Agency (Ndma) chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Anwar Ibrahim and Azidah Wan Ismail. The fact that Ndma has not passed the baton to the prime minister shows it is not yet a national crisis," he said at the ministry's building here yesterday.

Dr Dzulkefly said among the



Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad giving an update on the Covid-19 outbreak in Putrajaya yesterday. With him are (from right) health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdulllah, Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye and Health Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min. BERNAMA PIC

initiatives taken was to equip laboratories with the coronavirus testing facilities.

"We now have 18 government hospital and five private laboratories that have the facilities to carry out tests nationwide."

He said despite 550 close-contact samples tested for the virus, the number of positive cases re-

mained unchanged at 18.

"We also have 26 new thermal scanners, bringing the number of scanners to 80. These scanners will be placed at all exit and entry points, including in Johor where the volume of travel daily is quite high," Dr Dzulkefly said.

On cross borders efforts to contain the disease in Singapore and

Malaysia, he said both countries' health ministries have agreed that the screening at entry and exit points of the two countries be more thorough.

"A working committee to be headed by the deputy health ministers of both countries will be set up to handle the matter.

"This is especially so at the Cus-

toms, immigration and quarantine checkpoint in Johor, where daily, there are about 300,000 vehicles passing through the border.

"The collaboration includes clinical, medical, public health, patient management and research aspects, besides sharing of information."

Children barred from Miri Hospital's Level 1

MIRI: Children aged 12 and below have been barred from entering Level 1 of Miri Hospital as a precautionary measure against Covid-19 virus infection.

"Adults with a special visitor pass can enter the floor during visiting hours," the hospital said in a statement.

It said the restriction would take place with immediate effect until further notice.

The hospital urged members of the public, patients and family members to give full cooperation in handling patients-under-investigation, who were under quarantine for the virus.

Sarawak Disaster Management Committee on Tuesday announced that passengers of Sin-

gaporean flights arriving in the state did not need to undergo a 14-day self-quarantine at home anymore.

However, they were advised to stay at home and minimise their presence in public places.

They were told to remain vigilant and practice good personal hygiene, and avoid shaking hands or having physical contact with others.

On Monday, the committee instructed both Sarawakians and tourists from Singapore to undergo 14-day self-quarantine at home after Singapore's Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (Dorscon) issued an Orange warning level over the spread of the disease.



Miri Hospital in Sarawak is allowing only adults with a special visitor pass to enter Level 1 of its building during visiting hours. FILE PIC

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NATION

Up against two viral battles

Health Ministry has to put a stop to Covid-19 as well as fake news

KUALA LUMPUR: There are two viral battles waging simultaneously at this juncture in Malaysia.

Unlike the straightforward fight against new viruses in previous outbreaks, such as the H1N1 (first identified in 2009), MERS-CoV (2012) and the Nipah (1998/99) viruses, the Health Ministry has to contend with fake news on social media following the identification of the Covid-19 (novel coronavirus) on December 31 in China.

Its director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said people lack defences and antibodies against Covid-19.

“But, the difference between this new virus and the new viruses in the past is having to deal with fake news going viral on social media which creates mass panic, fear and social stigmatisation.

“Even the World Health Organization in Geneva (Switzerland) is addressing the fake news,” he said in an interview with *The Star*.

Dr Noor Hisham said the ministry is working round the clock with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and the police to allay public fears caused by fake news.

He said one of the ways to verify information is to check the Health Ministry's website and its Facebook



page and mainstream news websites.

Yesterday, Bernama reported that a retiree was fined RM5,000, in default 10 months' jail, by the Magistrate's Court in Sandakan for spreading fake news on Covid-19.

It also reported yesterday that a total of 23 investigation papers on fake news relating to Covid-19 on social media had been opened.

Three cases have been charged in court, in Kuala Lumpur, Terengganu and Sabah respectively, said Bukit Aman Criminal Investigation (Intelligence and Operations) deputy director Datuk Mohd Roze Shaari.

The most recent was a case in Tumpat, Kelantan, he said.

He urged the public not to share any unverified statement or article relating to the Covid-19 infection.

On Tuesday, the World Health Organization named the novel coronavirus disease as Covid-19, replacing the temporary name 2019-nCoV.

On Monday, a Malaysian man

who had visited China before returning home this month became the 18th person to be diagnosed with Covid-19 in Malaysia, said the Health Ministry.

Dr Noor Hisham said the majority of Covid-19 patients in Malaysia had mild symptoms such as fever, sore throat, runny nose and cough.

While all patients were isolated and their condition monitored closely, those with mild symptoms were given supportive treatment and were hydrated.

For severe cases, antiretroviral “off-label use” of the lopinavir and ritonavir combination drug (used for HIV cases), was prescribed for patients here and it seemed to have worked on two patients, he said.

A few of the patients with other medical conditions (such as diabetes, asthma) ended up with more severe symptoms, he said, adding that the young and old were also more vulnerable.

Less than 4% of patients deteriorate and become critical, he said, adding that the ministry also provides oxygenation if needed.

“The virus is self-limiting and self-immunity is an important factor. Some responded well when they have good immunity,” he said, stressing on the need to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Dr Noor Hisham said that anyone

can get infected with Covid-19 if precautionary and infection control measures are taken, especially with family members and healthcare workers who have close continuous contact with patients.

“More importantly, those with symptoms must take care of personal hygiene such as washing hands frequently, wearing a face mask to protect others from getting infected and washing hands after sneezing,” he said.

People should also avoid public places and stay home (self-quarantine) if they have symptoms, he said.

“In time, we hope our body will recognise the virus and build antibodies against it,” he said, adding that vaccination could help once it is available.

Dr Noor Hisham said the country has a coordinated action plan as a framework chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datin Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail while many unsung heroes in the ministry are also working behind the scenes.

He said that good leadership is equally important in a time of crisis.

He said health authorities act based on facts and in a united and coordinated way in their action plan as well as sharing information locally, regionally and globally.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

'Contingencies are in place'

Ministry: If an outbreak occurs, we are well prepared

PUTRAJAYA: The Covid-19 (novel coronavirus) situation in Malaysia is manageable and not in a state of crisis, says Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

The Health Minister said if the situation escalated, the country was well prepared to handle it.

Dzulkefly was responding to a World Health Organization (WHO) statement that Malaysia must prepare for possible wider transmission of Covid-19.

WHO's regional director for the Western Pacific Dr Takeshi Kasai said the latest figures showed that Covid-19 may be more transmissible than early data suggested, add-



ing that Malaysia needed to switch its focus in terms of preparation if the need arose.

"We take this assertion by WHO into perspective. We believe we have not come to that stage and, if at all, the country is ready to face it," said Dzulkefly.

Currently, the ministry and the National Anti-Disaster Agency are handling the Covid-19 situation.

It will only be passed to the National Security Council under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister if it becomes a national crisis.

To date, the number of positive Covid-19 cases in the country remained at 18 for the second day running yesterday.

Dzulkefly said over 550 individuals in the country had been tested for the coronavirus since the outbreak began.

"Out of this, only 18 were positive. This gives the perspective of the infection rate in Malaysia," he

said, adding that 12 of them involved China nationals while the rest were Malaysians.

The three patients, all from China, were discharged following a full recovery and have returned home.

On a related matter, Dzulkefly said they had received an additional 26 thermal scanners to be placed at Malaysia's entry points for screening purposes.

"This brings the total of thermal scanners to 80 nationwide," he said.

Watch the video
thestartv.com

