

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

## MISI MENTERI KESIHATAN BAHARU

## Portfolio dekat di hati Dr Zaliha

## Putrajaya

Penempatan doktor siswazah, hala tuju pakar serta perkhidmatan kesihatan yang lebih baik dan memenuhi keperluan rakyat, merupakan antara isu yang mahu diberikan perhatian oleh Menteri Kesihatan yang baharu Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

Beliau berkata, isu lain yang turut perlu diberikan perhatian ialah berkaitan golongan marginal, infrastruktur dan pelbagai keperluan kesihatan dan hospital, kesihatan mental dan perbekalan ubat-ubatan.

"Sudah pasti keutamaan terdekat ialah meneliti persiapan Bajet 2023, yang akan dibentangkan pada sidang Par-

limen bermula 19 Disember ini. Mudah-mudahan sektor kesihatan akan diberikan peruntukan yang menyeluruh dan memenuhi keperluan," katanya menerusi satu kenyataan di Facebook beliau.

Sehubungan itu, beliau berharap penjawat awam dan pakar pengamal perubatan, memberi sokongan kepada beliau untuk menjayakan setiap perancangan Kementerian Kesihatan.



"Ini suatu amanah besar yang diberikan kepada saya," katanya sebagai Menteri Kesihatan pada sesi ini. Alhamdulillah petang kelmarin selesai istiadat angkat sumpah atas perkenan Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah.

Dr Zaliha

"Saya yakin Kementerian Kesihatan amat penting, ke-

ta pengamal perubatan, amat diharapkan agar sektor kesihatan negara ini mampu menyaingi perkhidmatan kesihatan negara-negara maju.

rana menjadi fokus utama rakyat Malaysia khususnya dalam era pasca pandemik Covid-19," katanya

Ahli Parlimen Sekijang yang dilahirkan pada 28 Jun 1964 itu, kelmarin mengangkat sumpah jawatan di hadapan Al-Sultan Abdullah di Istana Negara, bersama dua Timbalan Perdana Menteri dan 24 menteri Kabinet selepas diumumkan sebagai barisan Kabinet Kerajaan Perpaduan, di bawah kepimpinan Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim semalam.

Di samping itu, Dr Zaliha turut menyifatkan portfolio kesihatan sebagai sesuatu yang dekat di hatinya yang mempunyai pendidikan dalam bidang perubatan dan

memulakan kerjaya dalam bidang itu pada 1989 di Hospital Sultanah Aminah Johor Bahru.

"Alhamdulillah Perdana Menteri ke-10 (Anwar) telah mendengar luahan akar umbi dan rakyat agar portfolio ini disandang oleh seorang pengamal perubatan dan perkara ini sudahpun ditunaikan," katanya.

Susulan diujungi pelbagai cadangan pembaikan sektor kesihatan selepas diumumkan memegang jawatan tersebut, beliau juga berkata, ia merupakan petanda yang baik bahawa rakyat di negara ini memberi perhatian besar terhadap perkhidmatan kesihatan yang menjadi keperluan asas kepada semua golongan.

AKHBAR : KOSMO  
MUKA SURAT : 7  
RUANGAN : NEGARA

## Enam kematian, 1,860 kes akibat Covid-19 kelmarin

**PUTRAJAYA** – Kes harian Covid-19 mencatatkan sebanyak 1,860 kes kelmarin dengan enam kes import yang sekaligus menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan jangkitan virus berkenaan setakat ini melonjak kepada 4,960,372 kes di seluruh negara.

Berdasarkan data pada laman web KKMNOW, kes aktif Covid-19 di seluruh negara bagaimanapun merekodkan pengurangan sebanyak 954 kes dengan jumlah kumulatif kes aktif kini sebanyak 23,099 kes.

Sejumlah 2,814 kes sembuh juga telah direkodkan dengan jumlah keseluruhan pulih daripada Covid-19 kini seramai 4,939,021 orang.

“Selangor mencatatkan jumlah kes harian tertinggi dengan 634 kes diikuti Kuala Lumpur (186), Sarawak (175), Melaka (172), Sabah (125), Pulau Pinang

(103), Perak (94), Kedah (80) dan Negeri Sembilan (74).

“Turut menyumbang kepada peningkatan kes Covid-19 kelmarin adalah Putrajaya (63), Pahang (61), Kelantan (46), Johor (33), Labuan dan Terengganu (masing-masing 23) dan Perlis (13),” demikian perkongsian data di laman web tersebut semalam.

Pada masa sama, sebanyak enam kematian dilaporkan dengan satu kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau *brought in dead* (BID) yang seterusnya menjadikan jumlah kematian sebanyak 36,710 dan BID 7,814.

Dalam pada itu, sebanyak 21,422 kes dikuarantin di rumah, 1,575 kes di hospital, 33 kes di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) tanpa bantuan pernafasan dan 69 kes di ICU dengan bantuan.

**AKHBAR : THE STAR**  
**MUKA SURAT : 6**  
**RUANGAN : NATION**

# Khairy and Dzulkefly pledge to help new Health Minister

**PETALING JAYA:** The two immediate former health ministers have pledged to work together and support newly appointed Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

In a tweet on Saturday, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, who is also Kuala Selangor MP, said Khairy Jamaluddin had contacted him via WhatsApp to express his disap-

pointment that Dr Dzulkefly was overlooked for the post.

"No qualms not (being) in Cabinet, so long (as) I can help get Health Reform done," he wrote in his post.

Tagging Khairy in his tweet, Dr Dzulkefly said Khairy had messaged him to say he had wanted Dzulkefly back as the health minister.

Dr Dzulkefly said he replied that he was a perpetual optimist.

Khairy then stated his intention of working together with Dr Dzulkefly to help guide the new Health Minister.

"I said, yes!" Dr Dzulkefly said to Khairy's proposal to help Dr Zaliha, who is also Sekijang MP.

In an earlier tweet, Galen Centre

for Health and Social Policy chief executive officer Azrul Mohd Khalib lauded Dr Dzulkefly as a great example and role model of public service.

"I salute and pay respects to Dr Dzul who delayed his retirement to fight and win to retain his Kuala Selangor seat in the recent GE," he tweeted.

In the 15th General Election, Dr Dzulkefly defeated Barisan Nasional's Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, who is former finance minister, for the Kuala Selangor federal seat.

Khairy, meanwhile, lost to Pakatan Harapan's Datuk R. Ramanan in the Sungai Buloh seat.

# Zaliha to reform healthcare

## First female health minister has her work cut out for her

### Profile of Health Minister



**Dr Zaliha Mustafa**

Member of Parliament: Sekijang, Johor  
 Age: 58  
 Profession: Medical Doctor

#### Education

- > Early education at Temenggong Ibrahim Girls School, Johor
- > 1981 - Maktab Rendah Sains MARA (MRSM) Kota Baru, Kelantan
- > 1982 - Matriculation studies at MRSM Seremban, Negri Sembilan
- > 1983 - Faculty of Medicine Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

#### Career

- > 1989 - Began her career at Hospital Sultanah Aminah (HSA)
- > 1990 - Medical officer at Pekan District Hospital
- > 1991 - Medical officer at Taiping Hospital
- > 1993 - Joined private practice at Poliklinik Penawar
- > Served as Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail's political secretary

#### Political career

- > Became active in politics in 1999 and was appointed as Johor PKR women's wing chief and Johor PKR chief six years later
- > 2007 - Wanita PKR vice chief
- > 2018 - PKR central committee member
- > 2020 - PKR Strategy, Policy and Training Bureau chairman

Status: Married with four children

TheStar graphics

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**PETALING JAYA:** It is time to focus on giving back healthcare services after Covid-19 has been at the forefront in the last two years, says newly minted Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

She said she will turn to Pakatan Harapan's manifesto to work on reforming healthcare services and also look into placements for contract doctors.

"Of course, the immediate thing we have to do is from the manifesto," she said.

Dr Zaliha said there was a slew of areas she would be looking into, including administration of the health ministry, infrastructure, health services and hospital services.

"That's a lot of things," the Sekijang MP from PKR told *The Star*.

In the 15th General Election, Pakatan's manifesto included increasing public healthcare expenditure to 5% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in five years, mitigating the rise of non-communicable diseases (NCD) by focusing on primary care, health screening, education, welfare, public health, and reduction of harmful habits, setting up a health

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commission, as well as a national health services commission.

The coalition also promised service delivery reform, safeguarding the welfare of doctors and healthcare staff, expanding MySalam coverage, expanding the Peka B40 scheme to M40, addressing issues related to the ageing nation, suicide decriminalisation and mental health protection.

When asked to comment on NCD, Dr Zaliha said the matter had yet to be looked into in a more holistic manner.

"I have a briefing with the Health Ministry (today). I need all the statistics to be (presented) to me (before I can look into) the causes of NCDs.

"I know there is basis (to concerns over NCDs), but we have to really look into the matter deeply," she said.

The Health Minister also emphasised the importance of wellness and prevention medicine.

Dr Zaliha has carved history after being the first woman to be appointed as Health Minister.

A medical doctor, she hopes her experience will come in handy in her new role, adding that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has heeded calls from the medical fraternity to appoint a medical professional as minister.

"Of course, the hope is that as a medical practitioner, I will understand better what the issues and things that we need to improve in the ministry are," she said.

Dr Zaliha was among 27 ministers who were sworn-in on Saturday.

# Medical experts: Prioritise tackling NCDs

**PETALING JAYA:** Experts have called on new Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa to look into the alarming rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the country as one of the main priority areas.

According to "The direct healthcare cost of non-communicable diseases in Malaysia" report released by the Health Ministry and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in August, Malaysia spent RM22.53bil to treat NCDs such as diabetes, cancer and heart diseases in 2017.

Citing statistics from the National Health and Morbidity Survey, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia health economy and public health specialist Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh said NCDs are the main causes of death and disability in Malaysia.

She added that it is estimated that one in five adult Malaysians is living with diabetes, one in three living with hypertension and nearly half are overweight or obese.

"NCDs accounted for 67% of premature deaths in Malaysia and over 70% of the burden of disease in 2014," she said.

Many, she said, are unaware that they are on the verge of developing NCDs.

Therefore, health promotion and education needs to be ramped up, she added.

"When the (NCD) burden is high, it means many people are affected. So, the government loses money in managing them," she said.

Apart from that, she said the high cost burden of NCD will also lower productivity, the quality of life and lead to early mortality.



**Heavy burden:** NCDs put a strain on public healthcare.

She said upgrades are needed in terms of number of staffers, drug options and better treatment to manage the NCD burden.

Public health advocate Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said NCDs such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, cancer and chronic obstructive airway disease have been on the rise in the past 10 to 15 years, and will continue to rise in the next few years.

He said smoking, cholesterol and sugar intake are risk factors for NCDs.

Prevention through healthy lifestyle practices in childhood and adulthood, regular screening and early treatment, physical

activities and restricting the intake of harmful substances such as tobacco, alcohol, and food with high fat and sugar content are key to preventing NCDs, he noted.

Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia president Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh said in a statement that private hospitals have the infrastructure for the screening of diseases, particularly NCDs, and as an immediate step, the health minister should consider outsourcing to private hospitals to control the increasing complications of such diseases.

The Health Ministry's report noted that the total direct healthcare costs of the three

selected NCDs - diabetes, cancer and heart diseases - were estimated at RM9.65bil, which did not take into account the estimated loss of productivity to the nation amounting to RM12.88bil.

For overall expenditure of the NCD category, the estimated total healthcare cost for diabetes was RM4.38bil (45.38%), followed by cardiovascular diseases (CVD) with RM3.93bil (40.73%) and cancer with RM1.34bil (13.89%), the report read. The study also found that hospitalisation costs amounted to RM1.58bil for the three NCD categories.

The cost of primary care consultations for the NCDs was about RM4.2bil.

The study also did not take into account other cost factors related to the three NCDs such as rehabilitation, palliative and long-term care.