

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
 MUKA SURAT : 2
 RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Pembangunan Kertas Putih Kesihatan

Inisiatif sandaran perkukuh sistem

Cabaran diharungi pastikan Keluarga Malaysia kekal sejahtera, utuh pada masa depan

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Kuala Lumpur: Pembangunan Kertas Putih Kesihatan bertepatan pada masanya bagi merealisasikan sistem kesihatan Malaysia yang lebih berdaya tahan dalam mendepani cabaran tahun-tahun mendatang, kata Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Perdana Menteri berkata, cabaran kesihatan yang diharungi sebelum ini dan apa yang bakal dijangkakan pada masa hadapan patut dijadikan sandaran untuk menambah baik dan memperkuatkan sistem kesihatan sedia ada.

Beliau berkata, selepas lebih dua tahun seluruh dunia dilanda pandemik COVID-19, satu perancangan komprehensif dan menyeluruh perlu dibentuk supaya kesejahteraan Keluarga Malaysia kekal utuh pada masa hadapan.

"Seperti semua maklum, sistem kesihatan negara sama ada kerajaan mahupun swasta berfungsi dengan cemerlang sehingga sebahagian besar Keluarga



Ismail Sabri, Khairy, Dr Noor Azmi (dua dari kiri), Aaron (kanan) dan Harjeet (kiri) pada Sidang Kemuncak Dasar Kesihatan 2022: Masa Hadapan Perkhidmatan Kesihatan Melalui Pembangunan Kertas Putih Kesihatan di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

(Foto Asyraf Hamzah/BH)

Malaysia menikmati tahap kesihatan yang baik terutama ketika kes pandemik COVID-19 memuncak.

"Namun semua pihak tidak seharusnya mudah berasa selesa kerana pandemik COVID-19 bukanlah yang terakhir berikutan terdapat pelbagai cabaran baharu bakal muncul yang akan menguji tahap keberkesanan dan ketahanan asas sistem kesihatan sedia ada," katanya berucap merasmikan Sidang Kemuncak Dasar Kesihatan 2022: Masa Hadapan Perkhidmatan Kesihatan Melalui Pembangunan Kertas Putih

Kesihatan, di sini, semalam.

Turut hadir, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin; Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan I, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali dan Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan II, Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang; Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Awam, Datuk Seri Mohd Shafiq Abdullah dan Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Kesihatan, Datuk Harjeet Singh.

Tanggungjawab semua pihak

Perdana Menteri turut menegaskan, keberkesanan sistem kesihatan negara tidak seharusnya digalas oleh Kementerian Kesi-

hatan semata-mata, sebaliknya menjadi tanggungjawab semua pihak seperti pemegang taruh, sektor awam dan swasta serta pertubuhan bukan kerajaan.

Beliau percaya jika semua bersama-sama berganding bahu dan berusaha ke arah kebaikan sekali gus mampu 'Mencorak Semula Perkhidmatan Kesihatan Untuk Keluarga Malaysia'.

"Sejak berlakunya pandemik pada 2020 dan sehingga kini, 4.6 juta rakyat Malaysia dijangkiti COVID-19 dan 36,000 orang kehilangan nyawa.

"Hampir tiga suku atau 74 pe-

ratus daripada jumlah kematian membabitkan mereka yang berusia 60 tahun ke atas, sekali gus menyebabkan trauma berpanjangan kepada ahli keluarga kerana kehilangan tempat bergantung," katanya.

Perdana Menteri berkata, hasil usaha Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK), kadar kematian dan kadar kemasukan wad intensif dapat dibendung.

Katanya, Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) yang dilaksanakan turut berjaya melandaskan lengkung jangkitan wabak, mengelakkan kadar kematian yang lebih tinggi serta mengurangkan tekanan kepada sistem kesihatan negara.

Beliau turut meletakkan tiga harapan bagi mencorakkan semula sistem kesihatan negara supaya lebih berdaya tahan dan kalis masa hadapan.

Pertama, katanya, sistem kesihatan negara pada masa depan mampu menyokong dan membantu Keluarga Malaysia kekal sihat dan bukan lagi menumpukan kepada rawatan dan intervensi selepas berpenyakit.

"Kedua, sistem kesihatan negara mampu memenuhi keperluan rawatan Keluarga Malaysia secara mampan dan berdaya tahan daripada semua cabaran termasuk dalam situasi pandemik global.

"Ketiga, sistem kesihatan negara menjadi kebanggaan Keluarga Malaysia kerana merasakan mereka adalah sebahagian daripadanya dan juga menghargai peranannya," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : LOKAL

POLISI SIFAR COVID-19 CHINA: PENGALAMAN PENULIS

'Mungkin leceh tapi berkesan'

Beijing

Bukan mudah untuk sampai di Beijing, sebuah metropolis yang jumlah penduduknya hampir sebesar populasi Malaysia.

Pelbagai prosedur ketat seiring dasar sifar Covid-19 yang dilaksanakan oleh China perlu dipatuhi pelawat, termasuk penulis yang akan berada di sini hingga pertengahan November depan bagi mengikuti program China Asia Pacific Press Center 2022.

Bukan itu sahaja, diketahui sebagai antara negara paling ketat dalam pengurusan Covid-19, China memanfaatkan teknologi hampir sepenuhnya, khususnya teknologi komunikasi dalam mencegah dan mengawal penularan virus itu yang pertama kali dikesan di Wuhan, ibu kota Wilayah Hubei pada penghujung 2019, sebelum memular ke seluruh dunia.

Penggunaan meluas teknologi komunikasi ini disedari penulis apabila tiba di Lapangan Terbang Changbeibangsa Nanchang Changbei di Wilayah Jianxi, kira-kira 1,400 kilometer dari sini, pada 17 Julai lalu.

Sejurus tiba, penulis diminta memuat turun dan mengisi borang dalam talian tentang maklumat diri yang kemudiannya menjadi kod respons pantas atau kod QR sebagai pe-



PEKERJA binaan memakai pelitup muka ketika memasuki tapak pembinaan di Beijing, China.

ngenalan diri. Realiti betapa pentingnya kod QR berkenaan dalam kehidupan harian penulis di negara ini hanya dirasai sepenuhnya apabila penulis bersama-sama dua lagi rakan wartawan dari Malaysia usai menjalani kuarantin selama 10 hari termasuk tiga hari kuarantin sendiri di Nanchang.

Sebaik menjejakan kaki di bandar raya ini pada 28 Julai lepas, antara perkara pertama yang dimaklumkan kepada penulis ialah menjalani ujian RT-PCR setiap dua atau tiga hari bagi mengesahkan diri benar-benar 'bersih' daripada virus itu pada setiap masa.

Terdetik di hati betapa renyahnya untuk melakukan ujian itu namun ternyata telah napa pen-

lis meleset. Bagi memudahkan masyarakat menjalani ujian tersebut, China menempatkan kios sehenti-pondok kecil - di serata kawasan di kota moden ini termasuk di kawasan perumahan dan juga lokasi tumpuan awam.

Tujuan utama China berbuat demikian ialah bagi melazimkan ujian Covid-19 dalam rutin harian rakyatnya dan pemerhatian penulis mendapati sememangnya inisiatif republik itu mendapat sokongan orang ramai yang dilihat beratur menunggu giliran di kios berkenaan yang dibuka pada sebelah pagi dan petang.

Menurut laporan media tempatan, stesen ujian Covid-19 tersebut yang boleh didapati hampir di mana-mana sahaja di seluruh republik ini berupaya memproses hingga 51.65 juta sampel sehari. Di Beijing sa-

haja terdapat 5,000 kios berkenaan yang lokasinya mudah ditemui melalui peta dalam talian yang disediakan oleh Baidu, enjin carian internet di China.

Tidak ada kerena birokrasi ketika mahu melakukan ujian itu yang ditanggung sepenuhnya oleh kerajaan China. Sekadar tunjukkan kod QR kepada petugas pertama bagi pengeksahan identiti sebelum tugas seterusnya menjalankan ujian Covid-19 ke atas penulis menerusi calitan te-

kak. Prosesnya juga amat pantas iaitu hanya kira-kira seminit tanpa sebarang sentuhan fizikal, dan keputusan terus dikemas kini dalam sistem Health Kit Beijing, aplikasi seakan MySejahtera Malaysia.

Semua warga asing yang berada di kota raya ini perlu berdaftar dengan Beijing

Health Kit yang antara lain merekodkan status vaksinasi serta rekod perjalanan pelawat dan kod QR identiti diri mereka.

Pentingnya melakukan ujian RT-PCR setiap dua atau tiga hari berikutan adanya mereka yang disahkan negatif Covid-19 sepanjang tempoh 72 atau 48 jam di benarkan berada di tempat awam termasuk pusat beli-belah, taman rekreasi, pengangkutan awam serta pejabat.

Umumnya, sistem kod kesihatan China yang diperkenalkan pada 2020 itu mengawal pergerakan orang ramai berdasarkan status Covid-19 mereka dan risiko ke-

hidatan yang mungkin wujud berdasarkan warna, iaitu merah, kuning dan hijau.

Hanya mereka yang mempunyai kod berwarna hijau boleh bergerak bebas manakala kod kuning dan merah memerlukan pengasingan - konsep yang hampir sama dengan MySejahtera.

Bagaimanapun setiap wilayah di China mempunyai sistem yang berbeza dan tidakseragam pelawat kerana menyulitkan pelawat kerana setiap kali tiba di wilayah lain mereka perlu mendaftarkan diri dengan program mini berasingan dalam aplikasi WeChat bagi mendapatkan kod QR hijau.

Pengalaman ini turut dilalui penulis semasa lawatan ke Shandong di pantai timur China, di mana kami dibawa melawat kawasan pelancungan dan perindustrian di beberapa bandar utama di

wilayah tersebut. Proses mendaftarkan diri dengan program mini ini hanya melibatkan beberapa klik butang pada aplikasi namun jangka masa kelulusan bergantung pada pihak berkuasa tempatan di wilayah berkenaan. Ada yang mengambil masa dua jam, namun penulis difahamkan di sesetengah wilayah lain boleh memakan masa 24 jam sebelum pelawat memperoleh kod QR hijaunya.

Sepertimana di Beijing, pengalaman enam hari di Shandong juga 'melelahkan' jari jemari penulis kerana terpaksa mengimbas kod QR setiap kali mahu menaikinya pengangkutan awam atau ke kawasan tumpuan orang ramai.

Ini belum diambil kira berpuluh-puluh dokumen dalam talian yang perlu dimuat turun dan diisi.

Hal ini juga menyebabkan ada pengujung yang 'terganggu' di hab pengangkutan seperti lapangan terbang kerana perlu menunggu bagi mendapatkan kod kesihatan tempatan.

Mungkin leceh namun penulis berpandangan langkah ketat yang dilaksanakan oleh China ini berkesan dalam mengawal penularan jangkitan tempatan. Ini kerana situasi semasa penularan Covid-19 di republik ini dilihat agak terkawal dengan kes harian dilaporkan stabil pada tiga angka dan tanpa kematian sementara majoriti kes pula dilaporkan di Wilayah Hainan setakat 11 Ogos lepas. - Bernama

Rekod 3,045 kes baharu Covid-19, lima kematian kelmarin

Putrajaya: Kes harian Covid-19 di negara ini menunjukkan sedikit penurunan apabila 3,045 kes dicatatkan kelmarin berbanding 4,334 kes Sabtu lalu. Menerusi data ditunjukkan dalam laman sesawang Covidnow, jumlah kes baharu itu membabitkan

3,040 kes penularan tempatan dengan lima kes lagi mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara. Perkembangan itu menjadikan sehingga kini jumlah angka jangkitan berkecilan di negara ini meningkat kepada 4,735,547 kes. Setakat ini, negara masih

mempunyai sejumlah 43,431 kes yang masih aktif dengan kebolehan jangkitan Covid-19, daripada jumlah itu 96.2 peratus atau 41,759 individu sedang menjalani kuarantin wajib di rumah. Sebanyak 1,567 kes atau 3.6 peratus kini mendapatkan rawatan lanjut di hos-

pital, Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 (PKRC) (33), unit rawatan rapi (ICU) (72 kes) dan 46 kes daripadanya memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan. Sehingga kini kadar penggunaan kemudahan ICU di seluruh negara sudah mencecah 62.5 peratus

dengan kes Covid-19 meringkumi 19.5 peratus. Mengenai kes kematian akibat jangkitan itu, sejumlah lima kes dilaporkan sejak kelmarin menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan angka korban di negara ini kini 36,085 orang. Tiga daripada kes kema-

tian dilaporkan di Kedah dan masing-masing satu kes dicatatkan di Johor dan Perak. Tiada kes kematian di luar fasiliti kesihatan (BID) dilaporkan. Dalam pada itu, sebanyak 4,226 kes dilaporkan sembuh kelmarin.

China antara negara paling ketat dalam pengurusan Covid-19

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 4
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

PM jamin sistem kesihatan negara terus berfungsi dengan cemerlang

Covid-19 bukan cabaran terakhir

Oleh ZULKIFLI MANZOR

KUALA LUMPUR – Pandemi Covid-19 bukan permasalahan yang terakhir menguji tahap keberkesanan serta ketahanan asas sistem kesihatan negara sedia ada, sebaliknya pelbagai cabaran baharu bakal muncul.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, dengan demikian satu perancangan komprehensif dan menyeluruh perlu dibentuk supaya kesejahteraan rakyat Malaysia kekal utuh.

"Sistem kesihatan negara sama ada kerajaan mahu pun swasta telah berfungsi dengan cemerlang sehingga sebahagian besar Keluarga Malaysia menikmati tahap kesihatan yang baik ketika kes Covid-19 memuncak.

"Namun begitu, kita tidak seharusnya mudah berasa selesa, kerana pandemik Covid-19 bukanlah yang terakhir akan menguji sistem kesihatan sedia ada," katanya pada Majlis Perasmian Persidangan Kemuncak Dasar Kesihatan 2022 di Pusat Dagangan Dunia Kuala Lumpur (WTCKL) semalam.



ISMAIL SABRI dilirangi oleh Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin (kanan) beramah mesra bersama sebahagian peserta pada Majlis Perasmian Persidangan Kemuncak Dasar Kesihatan di WTCKL, Kuala Lumpur semalam.

Persidangan bertemakan Masa Hadapan Perkhidmatan Kesihatan Melalui Pembangunan Kertas Putih Kesihatan itu ber-

tujuan membincang serta merencanakan masa hadapan sistem kesihatan negara melalui pembangunan Kertas Putih Kesihatan.

Ismail Sabri berkata, Malaysia dijangka mencapai status negara tua menjelang 2030 kerana

rakyat berumur 60 tahun ke atas lebih 15 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan penduduk.

Kata beliau, isu penuaan penduduk bakal memberi cabaran besar kepada sistem kesihatan dan sosial kerana meningkatkan kadar prevalen penyakit serta permintaan penjagaan kesihatan.

Selain itu, katanya, kadar penyakit tidak berjangkit juga meningkat apabila seorang daripada lima individu dewasa mengidap penyakit kencing manis dan seorang daripada tiga individu dewasa mengalami penyakit darah tinggi.

Tambah beliau, masalah kesihatan mental juga semakin meningkat apabila 2.3 peratus golongan dewasa mengalami kemurungan dan 7.9 peratus kanak-kanak berusia antara lima hingga 15 tahun berdepan masalah kesihatan mental dan angka itu dijangka akan meningkat.

Ujar beliau, cabaran kesihatan yang diharungi sebelum ini dan apa dijangka pada masa hadapan tersebut patut dijadikan sandaran untuk menambah baik dan memperkukuhkan sistem kesihatan sedia ada.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 5
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

Terdapat peningkatan kemasukan pesakit kategori 3, 4, 5 ke hospital

Kes pesakit Covid-19 masuk wad naik

Oleh EDDY HAMIDI

PUTRAJAYA – Jumlah kemasukan pesakit Covid-19 ke hospital awam bagi setiap 100,000 penduduk menunjukkan peningkatan pada Minggu Epidemiologi (ME) 32/2022, iaitu dari 7 Ogos hingga 13 Ogos lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, berdasarkan perbandingan dengan ME 31/2022, jumlah pesakit Covid-19 bagi kategori 1 dan 2 telah mencatatkan peningkatan sebanyak 5.3 peratus.

"Jumlah kemasukan pesakit Covid-19 kategori 3, 4, dan 5 ke hospital awam juga turut mencatatkan peningkatan sebanyak 11.4 peratus pada ME 32/2022.

"Pada masa sama, peratus pengisian katil fasiliti Covid-19 turut mencatatkan peningkatan di mana penggunaan katil unit rawatan rapi (ICU) meningkat sebanyak 2 peratus, manakala penggunaan katil kes bukan kritikal dan di Pusat Rawatan Covid-19 Berisiko Rendah (PKRC),



PENGUNAAN katil di wad bukan kritikal meningkat sebanyak 1 peratus. – GAMBAR HIASAN

masing-masing meningkat sebanyak 1 peratus," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Menurut Dr. Noor Hisham, peningkatan turut dikesan ke atas jumlah kes-kes positif Covid-19 yang dipantau oleh Pusat

Penilaian Covid-19 (CAC) di seluruh negara.

"Berdasarkan perbandingan data CAC fizikal yang dilaporkan pada ME 31/2022 dan ME 32/2022, jumlah kedatangan pesakit ke CAC didapati meningkat seba-

nyak 3.9 peratus iaitu daripada 13,238 kes kepada 13,757 kes.

"Bilangan kes Covid-19 yang dirujuk oleh CAC ke hospital juga didapati meningkat sebanyak 66.4 peratus iaitu daripada 220 kes sebelum ini kepada 366 kes,"

ujar beliau.

Bagaimanapun, menurut beliau, trend kes aktif harian Covid-19 yang dipantau secara maya oleh CAC menunjukkan telah berlaku penurunan sebanyak 5.5 peratus pada akhir ME 32/2022 iaitu daripada 66,162 kes kepada 62,516 kes.

"Terdapat juga peningkatan bilangan kes sembuh daripada Covid-19 pada ME 32/2022 sebanyak 1.1 peratus malah bilangan kes baharu turut menurun sebanyak 6.6 peratus iaitu daripada 28,554 kes kepada 26,678 kes.

"Berdasarkan rekod, terdapat penurunan sebanyak 6.5 peratus pada bilangan kes tempatan iaitu daripada 28,499 kes kepada 26,656 kes malah kes import juga mencatatkan penurunan sebanyak 60.0 peratus iaitu daripada 55 kes kepada 22 kes," jelas beliau.

"Tambah Dr. Noor Hisham, bilangan kes kematian kekal 60 kes manakala purata kes aktif dalam tempoh sama adalah sebanyak 44,706 iaitu menurun sebanyak 2.7 peratus berbanding minggu sebelumnya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Usahakan sistem kesihatan berdaya tahan

Ismail Sabri akui pembangunan Kertas Putih Kesihatan tepat pada masanya

KUALA LUMPUR

Pembangunan Kertas Putih Kesihatan bertepatan pada masanya, bagi merealisasikan sistem kesihatan Malaysia yang lebih berdaya tahan dalam mendepani cabaran tahun mendatang.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata,

cabaran kesihatan yang diharungi sebelum ini dan apa yang bakal dijangka kelak, patut dijadikan sandaran untuk menambah baik dan memperkuatkan sistem kesihatan sedia ada.

Menurutnya, selepas lebih dua tahun seluruh dunia dilanda pandemik Covid-19, satu perancangan komprehensif dan menyeluruh perlu dibentuk supaya kesejahteraan Keluarga Malaysia kekal utuh.

"Sistem kesihatan negara kita, sama ada kerajaan mahupun swasta, telah berfungsi dengan cemerlang sehingga sebahagian besar Keluarga



Malaysia bakal capai status negara tua menjelang tahun 2030 apabila meningkatnya rakyat berumur 60 tahun ke atas iaitu lebih 15 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan penduduk.



ISMAIL SABRI

Malaysia menikmati tahap kesihatan yang baik terutama ketika kes pandemik Covid-19 memuncak.

"Namun, kita tidak seharusnya mudah berasa selesa kerana pandemik bukanlah yang terakhir, terdapat pelbagai cabaran baharu bakal muncul,

cul, seterusnya menguji tahap keberkesanan dan ketahanan asas sistem kesihatan sedia ada," katanya semasa berucap merasmikan Sidang Kemuncak Dasar Kesihatan 2022: Masa Hadapan Perkhidmatan Kesihatan Melalui Pembangunan Kertas Putih Kesihatan di sini

pada Isnin.

Perdana Menteri berkata, Covid-19 memperlihatkan cabaran serius kesihatan pada tahun mendatang, termasuk isu penuaan penduduk yang memberi cabaran besar kepada sistem kesihatan dan sosial negara.

Katanya, Malaysia akan mencapai status negara tua menjelang tahun 2030 apabila meningkatnya rakyat berumur 60 tahun ke atas iaitu lebih 15 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan penduduk, sekali gus menyumbang kepada peningkatan kadar prevalen penyakit.

Malah permintaan penjagaan kesihatan golongan itu dianggarkan dua hingga tiga kali ganda lebih tinggi berbanding orang dewasa yang lebih muda.

Selain itu, kadar penyakit

tidak berjangkit juga meningkat apabila seorang daripada lima orang dewasa di negara ini menghidap penyakit kencing manis dan seorang daripada tiga orang dewasa mengalami penyakit darah tinggi.

"Berdasarkan statistik Tinjauan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi Kebangsaan 2019, angka itu sangat membimbangkan kerana kebanyakannya tidak sadar mereka menghidapinya dan mengundang risiko kematian.

"Contohnya, 87 peratus pesakit Covid-19 yang maut merupakan mereka yang menghidap sekurang-kurangnya satu penyakit kronik seperti kencing manis atau darah tinggi.

"Selain itu, masalah kesihatan mental semakin meningkat apabila 2.3 peratus golongan dewasa mengalami kemurungan dan 7.9 peratus kanak-kanak berdepan masalah kesihatan mental. Angka ini dijangka meningkat," katanya.

Dalam usaha mencorak semula sistem kesihatan negara, Ismail Sabri menzahirkan harapan agar sistem kesihatan menyokong dan membantu Keluarga Malaysia kekal sihat serta tidak lagi menumpukan kepada rawatan dan intervensi.

Beliau berharap sistem kesihatan negara mampu memenuhi keperluan rawatan Keluarga Malaysia secara mampan dan berdaya tahan dalam menghadapi semua cabaran, termasuk situasi pandemik global dan menjadi kebanggaan Keluarga Malaysia. - *Bernama*

Mohon peruntukan kesihatan awam ditambah 5%

KUALA LUMPUR - Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) memohon peruntukan-perbelanjaan kesihatan awam ditingkatkan kepada lima peratus daripada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) bagi memastikan Malaysia mempunyai sistem kesihatan awam bertaraf dunia di masa hadapan.

Menterinya, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, di negara berpendapatan sederhana tinggi, penanda aras peruntukan bagi perbelanjaan kesihatan awam adalah antara empat hingga lima peratus daripada KDNK.

Namun Malaysia, katanya memperuntukkan 2.50 peratus daripada KDNK untuk perbelanjaan kesihatan awam, menyebabkan ramai mengeluh berhubung tempoh diperlukan bagi mendapatkan perkhidmatan seperti pengimejan resonans magnetik (MRI) atau imbasan tomografi berkomputer (CT) di hospital kerajaan.

"Saya tahu semua Kementerian minta duit (peruntukan) daripada Yang Amat Berhormat (Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob) dan semua sama penting.

"Namun Kementerian ini (KKM) lebih penting sebab tugas teras kita adalah nyawa tentang hidup dan mati," katanya.

Khairy berkata lagi, segala dasar yang memberi manfaat jangka masa panjang kepada rakyat tidak pernah terjejas meskipun kerajaan berdepan berbagai spekulasi pilihan raya umum (PRU). - *Bernama*

Kertas Putih Kesihatan dapatan kerajaan dan rakyat - Khairy

KUALA LUMPUR - Kertas Putih Kesihatan dijangka dibentangkan di Parlimen pada November nanti, sepatutnya merupakan pernyataan aspirasi kolektif rakyat.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar berkata, ia adalah mengenai cara menjadikan sistem kesihatan negara lebih mampan dan berdaya tahan, menerusi pemikiran "menyeluruh kerajaan" dan "menyeluruh masyarakat".

Menurutnya, pandemik Covid-19 telah mencetus keperluan pembaharuan dalam penjagaan kesihatan, yang sebelum ini tidak pernah berlaku dan memperlihatkan antara keberantangan kesihatan, kewangan dan fabrik sosial yang ketara.

"Perkembangan ini menjurus kepada usaha pembaharuan penjagaan kesihatan negara demi keperluan kesihatan dan sosial rakyat.

"Hala tuju dan prinsip kami untuk pem-

baharuan penjagaan kesihatan dalam Kertas Putih Kesihatan harus mencerminkan keperluan ini.

"Kita tidak seharusnya membiarkan peluang pengajaran daripada pandemik Covid-19 berlalu begitu sahaja," katanya dalam ucapan 'Keperluan Untuk Pembaharuan Penjagaan Kesihatan' pada Sidang Kemuncak Dasar Kesihatan 2022 di sini pada Isnin.

Khairy berkata, untuk memastikan pelan pembaharuan itu kekal masa depan dan secara kritikal bertahan, maka sokongan bipartisan untuk pembaharuan yang dicadangkan dalam Kertas Putih Kesihatan juga penting.

"Masih terdapat banyak butiran dan



KHAIRY

pelan tindakan perlu diusahakan pada tahun-tahun yang akan datang.

"Saya harap kita semua memainkan peranan untuk menyokong pembentanganannya di Parlimen, hujung tahun ini. Perseutujuan anda dan persetujuan ahli Parlimen adalah penting untuk memastikan prinsip dan hala tuju reformasi struktur yang luas untuk sistem kesihatan Malaysia.

"Ini bukan sahaja akan mengukuhkan kedudukan moral dan politik untuk 15 tahun akan datang mengenai pembaharuan yang dicadangkan itu, tetapi dalam erti kata yang lebih besar, melambangkan perpaduan kita demi sistem penjagaan kesihatan yang teguh, tidak kira siapa Menteri Kesihatan atau parti

mana yang berkuasa," tambahnya.

Untuk memastikan jaminan pembaharuan itu, Khairy berkata, Kertas Putih Kesihatan mencadangkan Suruhanjaya Pembaharuan Penjagaan Kesihatan untuk memantau, menasihati dan melaporkan secara bebas status pelaksanaan kepada kerajaan, Parlimen dan rakyat.

"Saya akan lantik Majlis Penasihat Kertas Putih Kesihatan, terdiri daripada 13 pakar pelbagai bidang untuk menghulurkan bantuan dalam mencabar dan memperhalusi keutamaan dasar kita," kata Khairy.

Beliau berkata, adalah penting untuk memastikan Kertas Putih Kesihatan memfokuskan pembaharuan paling asas untuk menangani cabaran sistemik dan struktur utama yang dihadapi oleh sistem penjagaan kesihatan dan bukannya penyakit tertentu atau kumpulan demografi individu tertentu. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Asingkan GEG dan pengawalseliaan industri vape

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PETALING JAYA: Pelaksanaan Rang undang-undang (RUU) Kawalan Produk Tembakau dan Merokok 2022 disifatkan sebagai pembuka ruang kepada pengusaha vape untuk terus menjalankan perniagaan.

Bagaimanapun, Pengarah Nanostix Innovations Sdn. Bhd., Shahabudeen Jalil yang menyokong RUU itu berkata, kerajaan dalam masa yang sama perlu mewujudkan akta bagi membolehkan industri vape beroperasi sah mengikut saluran undang-undang.

Malah katanya, undang-undang berkaitan produk tembakau dan vape juga perlu diasingkan daripada RUU terbabit bagi memastikan industri vape terus bernafas mengikut syarat tertentu.

"Ada langkah yang perlu dilaksanakan kerajaan antaranya memberi kebenaran kepada pengusaha vape menjual produk di kedai berlesen sahaja.

"Begitu juga dengan pelaksanaan duti eksais yang mewajibkan pengeluar dan pengedar vape tempatan mendedahkan semua bahan digunakan dalam penghasilan cecair berperisa. Ini antara langkah yang membolehkan industri ini dikawal selia dengan teratur," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini baru-baru ini.

RUU Kawalan Produk Tembakau dan Merokok 2022 yang turut digelar sebagai GEG atau Generasi Penamat telah dibentangkan di Dewan Rakyat pada 27 Julai lepas antaranya memperuntukkan larangan individu yang lahir pada 1 Januari 2007 dan seterusnya, merokok, membeli atau memiliki produk tembakau atau peranti.

RUU ini menyentuh beberapa tafsiran yang menyamakan rokok dan vape walaupun kedua-dua rokok tersebut adalah berbeza.

Tambah Shahabudeen, sekiranya kerajaan memberikan kebenaran kepada industri vape untuk terus bernafas, ia disifatkan sebagai situasi menang-menang demi kebaikan semua pihak.

"Pengeluar vape dapat terus berniaga manakala pengguna boleh mendapatkan produk yang lebih selamat dan kerajaan pula mampu memperoleh pendapatan melalui cukai," ujarnya.

Dalam pada itu, Shahabudeen berkata, pihaknya mencadangkan kerajaan segera mewujudkan akta untuk membolehkan industri vape



PENGUSAHA dan komuniti vape mengharapakan undang-undang berkaitan produk tembakau dan vape perlu diasingkan daripada RUU bagi memastikan industri vape terus bernafas mengikut syarat tertentu.

beroperasi secara sah mengikut saluran undang-undang.

"Isu utama yang dihadapi pasaran gelap adalah isu pokok, ia adalah sumber utama generasi bawah umur mendapatkan stok rokok dan vape jika tiada kawal selia.

"Kelompokan yang ada dalam penguatkuasaan selama ini perlu dinilai semula jika objektif GEG ini mahu dicapai secara mutlak," tegasnya.

Berdasarkan rekod sebelum ini, dijangkakan larangan perjualan produk tembakau secara terang-terangan untuk mereka yang lahir selepas 2007 akan meningkatkan perdagangan haram daripada 58.4 peratus pada Mac lalu kepada 61.7 peratus.

Kerajaan juga akan kehilangan hasil daripada industri tembakau melebihi paras RM5 billion.

Sebagai produk alternatif kepada rokok, Shahabudeen berkata, vape dan rokok elektronik telah diterima baik di negara luar seperti United Kingdom (UK) dan New Zealand.

Malah katanya, ia diiktiraf sebagai alternatif yang dapat mengurangkan mudarat berbanding rokok dan membantu perokok berhenti daripada mengamalkan tabiat tersebut.

Disamping

sebagai alternatif untuk berhenti merokok, industri vape turut memberi manfaat kepada sudut ekonomi negara dan rakyat menerusi peluang pekerjaan.

"Dengan nilai runcit dianggarkan RM2.27 billion, ia menyediakan peluang pekerjaan kepada rakyat.

"Justeru, isu rokok dan vape ini tidak harus dilihat secara hitam putih sahaja. Ia perlu diperhalusi dari pelbagai sudut, supaya sebarang keputusan yang dicapainya nanti adalah yang paling baik dan memberi manfaat untuk semua pihak.

"Lebih penting, keputusan

itu nanti tidak pula menerbitkan sebarang masalah atau polemik tidak berkesudahan," katanya.

Nanostix Innovations yang menguasai 20 peratus industri rokok elektronik negara membuat pembayaran cukai sebanyak RM52 juta bagi tempoh 2018 sehingga 2021, atau kira-kira RM12 juta hingga RM13 juta setahun.

Shahabudeen dalam masa yang sama turut menimbulkan persoalan berhubung langkah kerajaan untuk mewujudkan sumber pendapatan dan peluang pekerjaan lain bagi menggantikan industri vape yang dijangka pupus untuk beberapa tahun akan datang.

"Perniagaan kami akan pupus dalam tempoh 10 tahun akan datang menerusi pelaksanaan GEG. Jadi apakah langkah kerajaan untuk menggantikan sektor yang lenyap ini?"

Pelaksanaan berperingkat GEG dijangka memberi kesan kepada pemain industri vape dan rokok elektronik yang kini mencecah kira-kira 3,000 usahawan di Malaysia dengan 15,000 pekerja selain membabitkan satu juta pengguna.

Selain itu, beberapa pakar turut berpandangan, rang undang-undang ini bukan sahaja memberi kesan kepada ekonomi, tetapi sama turut menimbulkan persoalan penguatkuasaan ketat di bawah Rang Undang-undang Kawalan Hasil Tembakau dan Merokok termasuk menjejaskan individu serta pemilik kerajaan.

Malah, kebimbangan utama dalam kalangan pemain industri adalah kuasa yang diberikan kepada pegawai yang mendapat akses kepada data berkomputer termasuk kata laluan di bawah Seksyen 34(4) rang undang-undang itu.

Selain Nanostix, beberapa pertubuhan bukan kerajaan seperti Malaysia Retail Electronic Cigarette Association (MRECA), Malaysian Vape Industry Advocacy (MVIA), Dewan Perniagaan Vape Malaysia (DPVM), Malaysian Vapers Alliance (MVA) dan Malaysian Organization of Vape Entity (MOVE) turut menggesa agar pelaksanaan GEG dikaji semula.

Berhubung pembentangan RUU tersebut, Menteri Kesihatan Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, sejumlah dua juta nyawa mampu diselamatkan daripada kematian serta kesakitan disebabkan penyakit berkaitan aktiviti merokok dalam tempoh sehingga 2040 sekiranya ia berjaya dikuatkuasakan.



SHAHABUDEEN JALIL

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

HEALTH POLICY SUMMIT

SYSTEMIC REFORMS TO RESET HEALTHCARE

Proposed Health White Paper will address structural changes to cope with NCDs, ageing population, says KJ

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KEY systemic reforms are needed to make primary healthcare services in the country capable of providing whole-person care throughout their lifespan, and not just for specific diseases.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the proposed Health White Paper would focus on such fundamental reforms to address major systemic and structural changes in the healthcare system.

"The Health White Paper will need to challenge every aspect of the government to think of health outcomes if we are to succeed in keeping Malaysians healthy.

"We need to tackle poverty as a negative determinant to good health and similarly provide quality education; equitable access to services for all; protect the environment; fight and reverse climate change; ensure food and nutritional security; plan for more green, safe, open and livable spaces in our cities and towns; clean our waterways and water supplies; and, allow every person the potential to live a fulfilling and dignified life," he said in his keynote address at the Health Policy Summit 2022 here yesterday.

The Health White Paper is expected to be tabled in Parliament in November. It aims to strengthen Malaysia's healthcare system to ensure equitable and high-quality services that are easily accessible at affordable costs and sustainable in the long run.

Khairy said the current health-seeking model, inherited since the time of independence, had changed very little over the past 65 years. The model today, he said, was still premised on a predominantly curative lens, responding after the occurrence of illness, disease and infirmity.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob meeting participants at the Health Policy Summit 2022 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

"We do not sufficiently anticipate the future. Patients will usually wait until they are seriously unwell before seeking care from the doctor, often at fairly advanced stages in the case of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

"Medical and medical-related professionals spend most of their time caring for patients when they are seriously symptomatic."

Khairy also said the health system today only marginally tackled and corrected underlying problems, which were rooted in environmental, socioeconomic and behavioural factors.

He said as a result, there had been an increase in chronic diseases since 2011, based on the National Health and Morbidity survey.

The numbers in 2019, he said, showed that one in five adults had diabetes, three in 10 adults had hypertension, and four in 10 adults had elevated cholesterol levels.

"These rates are some of the highest in Asean, making Malaysia one of the unhealthiest nations in the region."

He also said to move from sick care to healthcare and wellness, the Health White Paper would need to address the imbalance in resource allocation, organisation and policy focus between primary healthcare and hospital care.

Based on global experience, he added that investing in primary healthcare had showed improvements in health outcomes, help-

ing to reduce the overall cost of care, enhance equity and access, and, to some extent, reduce the adverse impact of social inequalities on health.

"As we have also seen during the Covid-19 pandemic, countries with robust primary healthcare systems were able to respond better and faster to the pandemic, maintaining essential services with minimal disruption.

"At the same time, we must address the maldistribution of equipment, capacity and skills mix between the public and private sectors in the healthcare system which contributes to gaps in coverage across the states and urban-rural lines," Khairy said.

The Health White Paper, he said, should also pave the way for the development of a robust healthcare funding model.

He said coming out of the pandemic, the country recognised that the public healthcare system was "chronically underfunded" against the increasing demands of NCDs, an ageing population, and the emergence of new communicable diseases. Malaysia's total public spending on health was relatively modest, he said, at 2.58 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020.

In contrast, he said, the World Health Organisation recommended that public health spending should be at least five per cent of GDP to ensure adequate financial risk protection for the people.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 3
 RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

HEALTH WHITE PAPER

PM: AIM TO FUTURE-PROOF HEALTHCARE

Serious challenges ahead as cost set to soar with chronic ailments and greying population

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THE Covid-19 pandemic and ageing society issue are expected to pose serious health challenges in the coming years, which must be tackled through an improved and future-proof healthcare system.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said, among others, the issue of an ageing population would pose a major challenge to the country's healthcare and social structure.

He said the country was expected to become an ageing nation in 2030, when more than 15 per cent of the population would be aged 60 and above.

Disease prevalence rates and demand for healthcare, he said, would then increase as the cost of treatment for people aged 60 and above was estimated to rise two to three times more than that of a younger adult.

"The rate of non-communicable diseases has also increased with every five adults in this country suffering from diabetes,



People exercising at the Lake Gardens in Kuala Lumpur. A healthy lifestyle is important to ensure the people's wellbeing. FILE PIC

and one in three adults from hypertension.

"Based on the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2019, these numbers are worrying because most people do not realise that they have a disease and are subsequently at risk of dying," he said in his speech at the Health Policy Summit 2022 here yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said for example, 87 per cent of Covid-19 patients who died were those who had at least one chronic disease, such as

diabetes or hypertension.

Mental health problems were also on the rise, he said, with 2.3 per cent of adults experiencing depression, and 79 per cent of children aged between 5 and 15 experiencing mental health issues, adding that this number was expected to rise.

"The health challenges faced previously and what we expect in the future should be used as a basis to improve and strengthen the existing healthcare system.

"Therefore, the Health White

Paper is timely to realise a more resilient and future-proof healthcare system," he added.

He said after more than two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, a comprehensive and holistic plan must be built to ensure that the wellbeing of the people remained strong in the future.

The proposed Health White Paper by the Health Ministry, he added, was aimed at strengthening the country's healthcare system so that it would be in line with the people's health needs,

apart from always being ready to face future obstacles.

"This Health White Paper not only focuses on the transformation of healthcare services, but also looks into other aspects that impact the health of the people.

"At the same time, the effectiveness of the country's healthcare system should not be the responsibility of the Health Ministry alone, but should be the duty of all parties such as stakeholders, public and private sectors, and non-governmental organisations.

"I believe that if we join hands and strive towards wellness, we can redesign health services for Keluarga Malaysia."

In his speech, Ismail Sabri said he hoped the national healthcare system would support and help the people to stay healthy, and no longer focus on treatment and intervention after illness.

He said he also hoped that the healthcare system could fulfil the needs of Malaysians sustainably and resiliently.

"I believe that you also share the same hope and the transformation of the healthcare system must involve various aspects, which would also include practising the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, where health is the responsibility of all.

"I also urge Keluarga Malaysia to practise healthy living by making yourselves active, nurturing a healthy mind, eating healthily, not smoking and going for regular health screenings," he added.

Khairy seeks bipartisan backing for white paper

KUALA LUMPUR: Bipartisan support for proposed reforms in the Health White Paper is critical to secure the direction of structural changes for Malaysia's health system.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said while his ministry had consulted a diverse range of stakeholders in developing the Health White Paper, the plans for reforms must be future-proof and should outlast any incumbent minister.

"I hope we will all play a part in supporting its tabling in Parliament at the end of this year. Not only would this cement the moral and political position for the next 15 years of proposed reforms, but in a large sense, it will also symbolise our solidarity for a future-proof healthcare system, no matter who is the health minister, or

which party is in power," he said in his keynote speech at the Health Policy Summit 2022 here yesterday.

He added that to further secure the reforms, the Health White Paper would propose the formation of a Health Reform Commission to independently monitor, advise and report on the status of its implementation to the government, Parliament and the public.

"In having a transparent and well-appointed Health Reform Commission, we hope that it will create institutional checks and balances and ensure follow-through of the reforms, regardless of changes in the political sphere.

"We will also appoint a Health White Paper Advisory Council, comprising 13 diverse subject matter experts, to lend their assistance in challenging and re-

fining our policy priorities."

Khairy hoped the government would consider increasing the allocation for public health to five per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

He said Malaysia, despite being an upper middle-income nation, the benchmark for public health expenditure was four to five per cent of GDP and Malaysia was only at 2.59 per cent.

"That is why we hear the grouses of the people. The waiting time to see a doctor is too long.

"A cancer patient has to wait three to four months to get a MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) or CT (computed tomography) examination.

"The waiting list for an MRI in Kuala Lumpur Hospital is three months. And this is a major hospital in the capital, what more for



Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin says it is time to look at long-term changes in the country's healthcare system as the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed many of its weaknesses. FILE PIC

patients in klinik desa (rural clinics) or klinik kesihatan (health clinics)," he said.

Khairy said it was time to look at long-term changes to the healthcare system, adding that the Covid-19 pandemic had revealed many of its weaknesses, including how it did not receive investments that commensurate

with the burden it bore.

"I know all ministries want more money for important projects, but there are some ministries that have more important roles to play.

"The Health Ministry is created to be more equal than others. Our core business is life and death," he said.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 10
 RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

LIFESAVER

25 ORGAN DONORS IN SABAH HONOURED

Queen Elizabeth Hospital holds awareness campaign on organ donation

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AFTER almost five years, it is still difficult for Dr Milena Salgado to accept the death of Sabah Wildlife Rescue Unit veterinarian Dr Diana Angeles Ramirez Saldiva, 36.

"This is hard. Diana was my friend of more than 20 years. She was like my sister. She came here to save lives and spent days and nights to preserve wildlife.

"She suffered from depression and felt that she could not continue anymore. She took her life, but with her life, she also gave lives to many.

"To me, it is terrific that she continues to save more lives through organ donation," said the Mexican researcher based at Danau Girang Field Centre in Kinabatangan during Queen



Organ donors' relatives at the launch of the Tree of Life in conjunction with Queen Elizabeth Hospital's organ donation awareness week in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. PIC BY OLIVIA MIWIL

Elizabeth Hospital's awareness campaign on organ donation here.

Dr Ramirez arrived in August 2010 and had been involved in animal rescue operations in Sabah and several projects, including the collaring of elephants, clouded leopards, proboscis monkeys and crocodiles.

She was among 25 donors who

had donated their organs and tissues in Sabah.

For Rizawani Fiona Heng, it was hard to hold back tears when the hospital showed a photo of her then 16-month-old son Fabian Chin Yin Sim on a screen.

"After 15 years, his contribution to donating multiple organs as the youngest organ donor has been recognised.

"I support organ donation, so the decision to allow the hospital to procure his organs was not difficult, but after that, the process was tough.

"I could not talk about it for seven years," she said, suggesting that this commemoration should be done for a month instead of just a week.

Nurse Jessica Ho, 39, had a

new lease of life after she got a new kidney.

Ho, who lost her husband to sudden cardiac-related death, had been on dialysis for 14 years when she suffered from renal disease.

"My husband and I were organ recipients and both of us received kidneys.

"Donated organs help people like us and give back our lives.

"Before we got the new kidneys, we had to do haemodialysis three times every week and we often felt tired after that."

Hospital director Dr William Gotulis said that up to June this year, there were 515,530 people nationwide who had pledged to become organ donors.

"However, pledgers from Sabah are only at five per cent, or about 25,000.

"And we have 10,457 patients on the waiting list for multiple organs, such as kidneys, livers, hearts and lungs.

"For the number of organ or tissue donations after death, there are 774 in the country with 25 in Sabah from 2000 to now," he said at the launch of the hospital's awareness week here.

The hospital also launched the Tree of Life on the premises to commemorate organ and tissue donors in Sabah.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
 MUKA SURAT : 2
 RUANGAN : NATION

PM: White Paper timely to stave off health challenges

KUALA LUMPUR: The development of the Health White Paper comes at the right time to make the national health system more resilient in facing future challenges, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said the health challenges faced previously and what to expect in the future should serve as a basis to improve and strengthen the existing health system.

After more than two years since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world, a comprehensive plan is needed to ensure that the well-being of Malaysians remained strong in the future, he added.

"Our country's health system, either public or private, has been functioning perfectly well, enabling the majority of Malaysians to enjoy good health, especially when Covid-19 cases reached the peak.

"However, we should not be complacent because there will be many new obstacles arising that will challenge the level of effectiveness of the existing health system," he said at the launch of the Health Policy Summit 2022: The Future of Our Healthcare - Health White Paper Development here yesterday, reported Bernama.

The Prime Minister said the Covid-19 pandemic had presented serious health challenges for the coming years, including the issue of an ageing population that posed a major challenge to the country's health and social systems.



Spotlight on health: Ismail Sabri at the launch of the Health Policy Summit in Kuala Lumpur. With him is Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin. — ART CHEN/The Star

He said Malaysia was expected to reach ageing nation status by 2030 when those aged 60 and above make up 15% of the population, contributing to the increase in disease prevalence rates and demand for healthcare from the group, which was estimated to be two to three times higher than that of younger adults.

Ismail Sabri said the rate of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

would also increase with one in five adults in the country having diabetes and one in three adults suffering from hypertension.

"Based on the National Health and Morbidity Survey 2019, these numbers are worrying because most of them are unaware that they have them (NCDs). For example, 87% of Covid-19 patients who died were those who suffered from at least one chronic disease such as

diabetes or hypertension.

"In addition, mental health problems are also on the rise, with 2.3% of adults suffering from depression while 7.9% of children aged between five and 15 have mental health issues, and this figure is expected to increase," he added.

In this regard, Ismail Sabri expressed his hope that the national health system would support and help Malaysians stay healthy and

no longer just focus on treatment and intervention after illness.

He said he also hoped the national health system would be able to meet the treatment needs of Malaysians in a sustainable and resilient manner in the face of challenges, including in a global pandemic situation.

The Prime Minister said the government would continue to play its role to ensure that the country's healthcare sector remained resilient and flexible to face future challenges.

At the same time, he said efforts to ensure the effectiveness of the national health system should not be the responsibility of the Health Ministry alone, but also must involve all stakeholders including public and private sectors as well as non-governmental organisations.

"I believe that you also share the same hope and that the transformation of the country's health system must involve various aspects including adopting the whole of government and whole of society approaches - namely, health is a shared responsibility.

"I also believe that if we work together and strive for goodness, we can redesign health services for Malaysians," he said.

He also called on Malaysians to cultivate a healthy lifestyle by staying active, nurturing a healthy mind, eating healthily, not smoking and undergoing regular health screenings.

Malaysia's spending on healthcare falls short, says Khairy

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry is asking for public health expenditure to be increased to 5% of the gross domestic product (GDP) to ensure Malaysia has a world-standard public health system in the future, says its minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

He said for an upper middle-income country, the benchmark for public health expenditure is between 4% and 5% of the GDP.

Nonetheless, Malaysia, he said was only allocating 2.59% of its GDP for public health expenditure, thus causing many to complain of the long wait to get services such as

magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or computed tomography (CT) scans in government hospitals.

"I know all ministries are also seeking allocations from the Prime Minister and all ministries are equally important, but some ministries are more important than other ministries.

"As George Orwell said in his book (*Animal Farm*), 'all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others', and in the same spirit, the ministry is created more equal than others as our core business is about the life and death of the people.

"Just one figure I need the Prime Minister to remember is five.

"Not RM5bil, not RM5mil, but 5% of our country's GDP," he said at the opening of the 2022 Health Policy Summit here yesterday, reported Bernama.

The conference themed "Future of Health Services Through the Development of Health White Paper" was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Meanwhile, Khairy said all policies and programmes benefiting the people in the long run were not affected even though there was

talk of an impending general election.

This was because, he added, in the one year of Ismail Sabri's administration, much had been achieved by the government, including the success in controlling the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the formulation of several laws seen as crucial for future generations.

Among them are the Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill 2021 which was recently passed after being in the draft stage for more than 10 years, as well as the Anti-Party Hopping Bill which would see stability and integrity in politics.

"In the field of health, the Prime Minister had also given support to me to bring the Control of Tobacco Products and Smoking Control Bill 2022 as well as consenting to table a White Paper on Health to transform the country's health system.

"Even though we were the government for not a very long time, we have succeeded in bringing long far-reaching reforms," said Khairy.

Watch the video
 TheStarTV.com



AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

New Covid-19 cases down 6.6% last week

KUALA LUMPUR: The number of new Covid-19 cases decreased by 6.6% to 26,678 cases during the 32nd Epidemiological Week (ME32/2022) from Aug 7 to 13.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said for the same period 60 fatalities were recorded, the same as the week before.

"The number of recovered cases in ME32/2022 increased by 1.1%, from 28,604 cases to 28,905 cases.

"The daily average of active cases for ME32/2022 was 44,706, which is a decrease of 2.7% compared with the previous week," he said in a statement on the latest Covid-19 situation yesterday.

For admission of Covid-19 patients to hospitals and public Covid-19 quarantine and treatment centres per 100,000 residents for patients in categories one and two increased by 5.3% while categories three, four and five recorded an 11.4% increase.

Noor Hisham said occupancy of intensive care unit beds increased by 2% while treatment centre beds and non-critical beds each recorded an increase of 1%.

In addition, he said the percentage of Covid-19 patients requiring ventilators increased by 0.3% in ME32 compared with ME31.

Positive Covid-19 cases monitored by Covid-19 assessment centres (CAC) across the country also showed an increase.

"The number of patient arrivals at CAC increased by 3.9%, new cases undergoing monitoring at home rose by 2.1% while cases referred by CAC to treatment centres and hospitals were up by 66.4%," he said.

In the meantime, he said the average RT value showed a decrease of 2%.

He added that the results of Covid-19 surveillance at sentinel locations across the country revealed a total of 143 samples of influenza-like illness were positive for Covid-19 with a rate of 18.6%, while no samples of severe acute respiratory infection were detected positive for Covid-19 in ME32.

- Bernama