

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Hospital di Negeri Sembilan perintis projek bebas kertas

Fasiliti kerajaan guna aplikasi sistem simpanan rekod perubatan secara elektronik

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Kuala Lumpur: Hospital kerajaan dan klinik kesihatan di Negeri Sembilan akan jadi perintis kepada projek bebas kertas dengan mengaplikasi penggunaan sistem simpanan rekod perubatan kesihatan secara elektronik.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata tender bagi pemasangan sistem rekod perubatan kesihatan secara elektronik itu sudah dibuka, baru-baru ini.

"Hospital dan klinik kesihatan di Negeri Sembilan akan menjadi yang pertama menggunakan sistem rekod kesihatan elektronik, bebas penggunaan kertas.

"Pemilihan Negeri Sembilan kerana ia bersedia dan sebuah negeri yang kecil, lebih mudah.

"Kita akan pilih vendor dalam masa terdekat melalui tender terbuka terbabit," katanya pada sidang media selepas Majlis Pelancaran Hab Teknologi Kesihatan Sandbox Teknologi dan Inovasi Nasional (NTIS) di sini, semalam.

Khairy berkata, vendor yang dipilih akan menaik taraf dan memasang sistem rekod kesihatan elektronik di semua hospital dan klinik kesihatan.

"Sekiranya projek rintis ini

berjaya, kita akan melihat keperluan memperluaskannya ke hospital dan klinik kesihatan seluruh negara," katanya.

Laksana pembaharuan

Beliau berkata, langkah itu juga bagi memastikan tiada lagi hospital dibebankan dengan penggunaan kertas, sebaliknya rekod disimpan secara elektronik.

"Saya pergi ke Hospital Kuala Lumpur, hospital terbesar dalam negara tetapi masih menggunakan simpanan rekod tidak secara elektronik. Untuk mencari rekod perubatan pesakit, mereka ka-

dangkala perlu melihat beribu-ribu fail.

"Malah, kalau kita lihat klinik kesihatan kita, oleh kerana tidak boleh musnahkan rekod pesakit untuk tujuh tahun, di koridor klinik kadang-kadang ada 'bertimbun-timbun' dengan fail fizikal pesakit.

"Jadi, ini yang Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) hendak percepatkan seiring kemajuan dan inovasi teknologi," katanya.

Sementara itu, ditanya mengenai keputusan bagi kelonggaran penggunaan pelitup muka dalam negara, Khairy berkata, beliau akan membuat keputusan mengenainya dalam masa terdekat.

"Saya akan buat keputusan tidak lama lagi. Perkara itu sudah dibincangkan, beri saya masa beberapa hari," katanya.

Baru-baru ini, Majlis Pemulihan Negara (MPN) dan pakar epidemiologi menggesa supaya KKM membuat keputusan berhubung kelonggaran pemakaian pelitup muka berdasarkan beberapa indikator COVID-19 di negara ini yang terus menunjukkan penurunan, termasuk kemasukan pesakit ke fasiliti kesihatan.

Hospital dan klinik kesihatan di Negeri Sembilan akan menjadi yang pertama menggunakan sistem rekod kesihatan elektronik, bebas penggunaan kertas



Khairy Jamaluddin,
Menteri Kesihatan

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 16

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM nafi siri serbuan tindas pengusaha vape

Taiping: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menafikan melakukan penindasan terhadap pengusaha vape susulan serbuan dan rampasan yang dibuat bulan lalu.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, berkata serbuan yang dibuat kementerian itu bukan untuk menganiaya mana-mana pihak, sebaliknya untuk menjaga kebajikan rakyat.

"KKM tidak menindas sesiapa, kita nak jaga rakyat. Jadi, tindakan serbuan dan rampasan yang dibuat ada sebab tersendiri dan berdasarkan peraturan serta undang-undang sepatutnya.

"Bagaimanapun, perkara ini kita akan buat siasatan lanjut," katanya selepas merasmikan program Latihan Pertolongan Cemas dan Penggunaan Alat Automated External Defibrillator (AED) di Zoo Taiping, di sini, semalam.

Ditanya mengenai akta vape, beliau menegaskan, ketika ini belum ada undang-undang khas untuk mengawal industri itu, namun ia termaktub dalam Rang Undang-Undang (RUU) Kawalan Produk Tembakau dan Merokok 2022, yang akan dibahaskan pada sesi akan datang.

RUU itu antara lain menyamakan vape seperti rokok dan menggariskan dasar Generasi Penamat (GEG) yang akan

mengharamkan industri vape pada masa hadapan.

Dr Noor Azmi berkata, KKM menjalankan pemantauan dan penguatkuasaan berdasarkan peraturan terdahulu di bawah Akta Makanan 1983 bagi tindakan penguatkuasaan ke atas industri dan kegiatan merokok atau yang berkaitan dengan tembakau.

Jejas banyak operasi

Media sebelum ini melaporkan, tindakan KKM yang melakukan serbuan dan rampasan ke atas industri vape menjejaskan banyak operasi pengusaha vape di Lembah Klang dan memberi kesan kepada usahawan kecil dan sederhana, yang membabitkan kerugian jutaan ringgit.

Setiausaha Agung Dewan Perniagaan Vape Malaysia (DPVM), Ridhwan Rosli, dilaporkan berkata ramai pihak yang terbahit dalam industri itu juga tidak bersetuju dengan akta yang dibentangkan baru-baru ini, yang menyamakan vape seperti rokok serta cadangan dasar GEG (generasi penamat).

Presiden Malaysian Vape Industry Advocacy (MVIA), Rizani Zakaria pula dilaporkan berkata siri serbuan yang dijalankan pihak berkuasa menjejaskan industri kerana ia tidak selaras dengan apa diumumkan kerajaan sebelum ini dan tindakan itu mengakibatkan ramai mengalami kerugian.

KKM tidak menindas sesiapa, kita nak jaga rakyat. Jadi, tindakan serbuan dan rampasan yang dibuat ada sebab tersendiri dan berdasarkan peraturan serta undang-undang sepatutnya



Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali,
Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan

AKHBAR : KOSMO
 MUKA SURAT : 5
 RUANGAN : NEGARA

Lima hospital bakal jadi hab teknologi kesihatan kualiti tinggi

KUALA LUMPUR – Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) dan Kementerian Kesihatan (KMM) mengumumkan lima buah hospital akan dijadikan sebagai Hab Teknologi Kesihatan Sandbox Teknologi dan Inovasi Nasional (NTIS) di negara ini.

Pelaksanaan Hab Teknologi Kesihatan NTIS dicadangkan akan berada di Hospital Rembau, Negeri Sembilan; Hospital Putrajaya, Institut Kanser Negara; Hospital Tunku Azizah di Hospital Wanita dan Kanak-kanak, Kuala Lumpur serta Hospital Bera, Pahang.

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Seri Dr. Adham Baba berkata, lokasi ini dipilih atas kesediaan infrastruktur teknologi, tenaga mahir, integrasi dengan teknologi semasa seperti internet dan 5G, perkakasan dan pemahaman teknologi terkini.

"Lokasi ini akan dikenali sebagai pusat sghenti sektor kesihatan yang menyediakan pengalaman penjagaan kesihatan berkualiti tinggi dengan teknologi dan inovasi.

"Hab ini bermatlamat untuk memacu pengujian dan pengkomersialan inovasi teknologi kesihatan di dalam persekitaran yang selamat dan dikawal selia," katanya ketika merasmikan pelan-



HOSPITAL Bera antara lima hospital dikenal pasti untuk dijadikan sebagai Hab Teknologi Kesihatan Sandbox Teknologi dan Inovasi Nasional (NTIS) di negara ini. – GAMBAR HIASAN

caran Hab Teknologi Kesihatan NTIS di Bukit Jalil semalam.

Jelasnya, MOSTI komited dalam membangunkan beberapa teknologi inovatif yang dapat mengukuhkan lagi sistem penjagaan kesihatan rakyat.

"Penubuhan Hab Teknologi Kesihatan NTIS akan mempercepatkan penciptaan, penerimaan dan pengkomersialan teknologi dan inovasi tempatan di dalam sektor kesihatan tanpa menjejaskan tempoh ujian klinikal sedia ada.

"Faedah yang dapat daripada hab ini adalah penjagaan kesihatan yang berkualiti dengan kos yang berpatutan dan menyokong

usaha-usaha pencegahan penyakit yang dibawa oleh vektor-vektor seperti serangga dan haiwan perosak," ujarnya.

Sehubungan itu, Adham menyatakan Hab Teknologi Kesihatan NTIS, merupakan satu inisiatif MOSTI, dengan Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation (MRANTI) selaku Sekretariat Utama.

"Hab ini akan disokong oleh Kluster Penjagaan Kesihatan Bersepadu MRANTI seluas 10 ekar yang akan mempercepatkan penerokaan dan pembangunan kerja dalam penjagaan kesihatan dan teknologi perubatan," ujarnya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM nafi tindaş pengusaha vape, serbuan bukan secara semberono

TAIPING - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menafikan menindas pengusaha rokok elektronik atau vape berikutan beberapa serbuan dan rampasan yang dijalankan.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, serbuan bukan dilakukan secara semberono sebaliknya berdasarkan peraturan dan undang-undang sedia ada.

"Tidak ada siapa hendak menindas (pengusaha vape), kita hendak jaga rakyat supaya sentiasa sihat.

"Saya percaya tindakan (serbuan ke atas premis vape) dilakukan atas sebab-sebab tertentu," katanya kepada pemberita selepas merasmikan

program latihan pertolongan cemas dan penggunaan alat defibrilator luaran automatik (AED) di Zoo Taiping dan Night Safari di sini pada Jumaat.

Baru-baru ini, Setiausaha Agung Dewan Perniagaan Vape Malaysia (DPVM), Ridhwan Rosli dilaporkan sebagai berkata, tindakan KKM melakukan serbuan dan rampasan ke atas industri vape menjejaskan operasi pengusaha vape di sekitar Lembah Klang serta memberi kesan kepada usahawan kecil dan sederhana yang melibatkan kerugian jutaan ringgit.

Ridhwan berkata, tindakan serbuan dan rampasan itu seolah-olah memberikan tekanan ke atas industri

kerana mereka tidak bersetuju dengan cadangan KKM untuk menyamakan vape dengan rokok serta cadangan Akta Kawalan Produk Tembakau dan Merokok serta Generasi Penamat (GEG).

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Azmi berkata, KKM akan membuat keputusan berhubung kelonggaran pemakaian pelitup muka di negara ini.

Beliau berkata, keputusan itu akan diumumkan Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar tidak lama lagi.

"Ini kerana data kes (Covid-19) telah menunjukkan penurunan sejak kebelakangan ini dan kita juga sudah hampir kepada kehidupan normal," katanya. - *Bernama*



Dr Noor Azmi (kiri) menunjukkan peti alat Automated External Defibrillator (AED) selepas merasmikan program latihan pertolongan cemas dan penggunaan AED di Zoo Taiping pada Jumaat.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAIT TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

HEALTHCARE MARKET

FIVE HOSPITALS TO BE 'SANDBOX SITES'

They will facilitate start-ups and solution providers to test-bed medical and healthcare tech

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FIVE hospitals in Malaysia will be designated as sandbox sites for start-up companies and solution providers to test-bed medical and healthcare technologies.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the five hospitals were the National Cancer Institute and Putrajaya Hospital in Putrajaya, Tunku Azizah Hospital in Kuala Lumpur, Bera Hospital in Pahang and Rembau Hospital in Negri Sembilan.

"One reason is simply the potential of the healthcare market. Another is that too much money is being spent on the curative side of healthcare.

"We need to shift some of that investment into keeping people healthy.

"By the time people come to hospitals, they are already chronically ill, and it would be much better for any country to have preventive and promotive health strategies, and technology helps with this."

He said this at the launch of the Health Technology Hub at the Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation (MRANTI) Park here yesterday.

Khairy said the Health Ministry and the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry had created the test-bed environment through the National Technology and Innovation Sandbox (NTIS), which would provide the initial funding for companies and start-ups to commercialise their healthcare technology solutions.

The common frustration among such companies, he added, was the stringent regulatory processes that they had to follow.

"It has to be a highly regulated sector because it is a matter of life and death, and that is why we have all sorts of legislation and monitoring agencies related to healthcare.

"Having said that, these legis-



Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin (second from right) and Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba (third from right) visiting an exhibition after the launch of the Health Technology Hub at the Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation Park in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY AZHAR RAMLI

lations and institutions must not stand in the way of innovation but facilitate innovation through the sandbox.

"Something that has not been registered yet can be deployed in a safe and controlled environment at our hospitals."

He said he was confident that the Health Technology Hub and its innovations would improve public healthcare services not only in the delivery of medical and clinical care but also in hospital support.

He said, for example, robots had been used in hospitals to send out food to sick patients during the Covid-19 pandemic to minimise human-to-human contact.

"Some of the menial tasks can be replaced by robotics. We are also in the process of digitalising our hospitals, especially in developing electronic medical record systems."

Meanwhile, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said progress and focus on the health technology sector had the potential to fill in the gaps of quality healthcare and meet the growing needs of the nation.

He said, therefore, proper focus should be given to the development and transformation of this sector.

"Digital healthcare plays a big role in revolutionising the treatment of various types of diseases.

"Many local health technology companies have explored new approaches in delivering diag-

nostic tests, medical assistance, healthcare and therapeutic treatment directly to patients."

Dr Adham said the NTIS Health Technology Hub would be joined by the MRANTI integrated healthcare cluster, covering an area of 10 acres in MRANTI park.

"This functions as a one-stop centre to accelerate the implementation of highly innovative projects in various fields, including medicine and healthcare.

"The total gross floor area of this development is about 873,000 sq ft and will be supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure, including a holistic technology ecosystem such as 5G, hyperscale data centres, learnscape parks and low-density development environments."

Dr Adham said the components for the MRANTI integrated healthcare cluster included a research and development centre, an artificial intelligence tech hospital, and a recuperation and rehabilitation village.

The cluster, he added, would be fully supported by the MRANTI Park ecosystem.

At the event, both ministers also witnessed a memorandum of understanding inked between MRANTI and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) to ensure, among others, that both entities would provide access to research and innovation development and solutions for healthcare, and making the UiTM hospital a physical testing facility for validation tests, as well as a training centre for healthcare-related innovations and solutions.

ALLEGATIONS

Noor Azmi: Health Ministry not victimising vape operators

TAIPING: The Health Ministry is not oppressing electronic cigarette or vape operators following a series of raids and seizures conducted by the authorities earlier.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali said the raids on vape premises were not recklessly carried out and that they were conducted for specific reasons based on the laws and regulations.

"No one wants to oppress (vape entrepreneurs), we want to keep the people healthy.

"I believe the action (raids on vape premises) was done for certain reasons," he said after officiating at a first aid training programme and the use of automatic external defibrillator at Taiping Zoo and Night Safari Pavilion here yesterday.

Recently, Malaysian Vape Chamber of Commerce secretary-general Ridhwan Rosli was reported as saying that the Health Ministry's raids and seizures in the vape industry in the Klang Valley had an impact on small- and medium-sized en-

terprises involving losses of millions of ringgit.

Ridhwan also reportedly said the raids and seizures appeared to put pressure on the industry because the industry did not agree with the Health Ministry's proposal to equate vaping with cigarettes and the proposed Control of Tobacco Products and Smoking Bill 2022 and Generational End Game (GEG).

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Azmi said a decision on the face mask mandate would be announced by Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin soon.

"This is because the case data (on Covid-19) has shown a decrease recently and we are also almost leading normal lives."

Earlier, National Rehabilitation Council chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the decision on the use of face masks would be decided by the Health Ministry as the council had requested Dr Noor Azmi to look into the need for face masks if the Covid-19 situation gradually improved. **Bernama**



Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali (sixth from left) posing with participants after officiating at a first aid training programme and the use of automatic external defibrillator at Taiping Zoo and Night Safari Pavilion yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

AKHBAR : NEW STRAIT TIMES
 MUKA SURAT : 7
 RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

EXPERTS URGE MONKEYPOX PRECAUTION

Pandemic fatigue, stigma may drive mutated strain of virus in Malaysia, warn virologists

KUALA LUMPUR

FRESH off most restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic with life mostly back to normal, Malaysia and the rest of the world are now dealing with another global health emergency — monkeypox.

The current wave began in early May with the first case detected in the United Kingdom; it soon spread via human-to-human transmission to other countries in Europe and North America.

To date, it has been found in 99 countries, 92 of which do not have a history of monkeypox, an orthopoxvirus.

The disease used to be primarily contained in Africa and transmitted from animals, mostly rodents, to humans.

So far, no monkeypox case has been detected in Malaysia although almost all its neighbours have reported monkeypox cases, with Singapore recording the highest number at 16, according to the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

How long Malaysia may be impervious remains to be seen as more people travel in and out of the country.

"Eventually, I'm sad to say, there might be a possibility of (monkeypox) coming here. It's coming," said Associate Prof Dr Nazlina Ibrahim, a virologist at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

There have been close shaves — one 45-year-old Malaysian man, a resident of Singapore, tested positive in July while visiting Johor, but his acquaintances tested negative. So far, all suspected cases have tested negative.

Experts warn that should mon-

keypox finally come to Malaysia, there are several factors that would determine how far it spreads.

PANDEMIC FATIGUE

Considering the world is still battling Covid-19, albeit to a lesser degree, the speed at which the new mutated and more infectious monkeypox strain could spread still took experts by surprise. Precautionary measures from Covid-19, such as physical distancing and wearing face masks, would have been effective at keeping the virus at bay if they were in effect.

The keyword is if.

Many of the countries that first recorded human-to-human cases of monkeypox were in Europe and North America, which were the first to drop most Covid-19 precautions. After two years of limited socialising and no travelling, people are tired of being cautious and are now raring to make up for the lost time.

In other words, they are suffering from pandemic fatigue.

"When we try to recover from the pandemic, I think people just want to go back to where they were. The life of travelling, hugging, not keeping up with physical distancing and gatherings. And that's an opportunity for diseases to spread," said Dr Rachel Ting, a psych-

chologist at Monash University-Malaysia.

In Malaysia, while many still keep their face masks on indoors as required by law, the lackadaisical attitude to wearing face masks is more obvious now that the government has dropped most restrictions. Some go about with their face mask under their chin or no longer mask up indoors in offices or auditoriums.

This may backfire as this strain of monkeypox can spread via respiratory droplets, albeit in close settings. Other measures, such as physical distancing and limiting contact, are no longer in effect. Monkeypox spreads more commonly via contact with body fluids, direct contact with lesions or



The monkeypox disease has been found in 99 countries, 92 of which do not have a history of monkeypox, an orthopoxvirus. REUTERS PIX



Test tubes labelled 'Monkeypox virus positive' are seen in this illustration taken on May 22.

blisters that are characteristic of monkeypox, and contaminated materials such as bed linens.

"(Before), people were diligent about health measures like hand-washing and not being in close contact with people. But after Covid-19, they seem to not heed all these things," said Dr Nazlina.

Dr Ting agreed, saying that the psychological toll the pandemic took on people, including depression and anxiety, may be contributing to the fatigue.

"Being hyper-vigilant and taking care of themselves — I see them all as part of self-care behaviour. So, I think when people are tired, their self-care behaviour also goes down. They just let go and let loose," she told Bernama.

She added that pandemic fatigue could also present itself as social avoidance, calling for more psychological assistance for people to recover from the pandemic trauma.

STIGMA

Another concern experts have is over the stigma of monkeypox. Most of the cases have been reported among the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community, mainly men who have sex with men (MSM), which is illegal in Malaysia.

University Malaya epidemiologist Associate Prof Dr Rafdzah Ahmad Zaki told Bernama that the association with LGBT may drive anyone who may have been

exposed underground.

"We need to be clear. Don't have a misconception that monkeypox is only among the MSM or LGBT (community). Anyone can get it. So we need to remove that perception, which makes people afraid to get tested."

She added that the stigma may cause those who have been exposed to defer getting tested, which would delay their getting treatment or cause them to self-medicate or seek help from traditional medicine practitioners.

Worse, they may continue to see people while they are still infectious and spread the disease to their friends and family.

She added that awareness among clinicians was also important so that they do not confuse monkeypox with atypical chickenpox, which has reportedly happened in other countries.

Current surveillance methods include doctors reporting any case of patients coming in with symptoms of monkeypox, which include fever, fatigue, painful swelling of lymph nodes and a blister-like rash on the hands, face and genitals, among others. The doctors are required to take down the medical and travel history of the said patients, and take a sample for testing.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin had said that should an outbreak occur, monkeypox vac-



Dr Rachel Ting

cines would only be available for high-risk healthcare workers and close contacts.

The smallpox vaccine, which was discontinued in 1980 in Malaysia, is reported to be 85 per cent effective against monkeypox. Dr Rafdzah warned that the chickenpox vaccine, however, is not.

Some facts on monkeypox remain murky. The incubation rate has been listed as between five and 21 days, while the illness can last two to four weeks. There have been reports of cases where monkeypox was transmitted sexually or asymptotically, although the CDC was careful

to say more research was needed. To date, almost 50,000 cases have been reported globally with 16 dead, the latest fatality occurring in the United States on Aug 30, according to the CDC.

Although complacency may be a concern, Dr Nazlina said monkeypox would likely be easier to contain than Covid-19 as it is not as infectious as the coronavirus. According to the World Health Organisation, the basic reproduction rate of monkeypox cases among the MSM population is above one and less than one in other settings.

"Continue with the standard operating procedure that we have for Covid-19 and be aware of the virus if you are (at risk) of getting it from people who practise this kind of sexual activity," she added. Bernama



Associate Prof Dr Rafdzah Ahmad Zaki



Associate Prof Dr Nazlina Ibrahim