

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 14
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM jalankan kajian kawalan penggunaan rokok, vape serentak

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) akan mengkaji cadangan supaya kawalan penggunaan rokok dan rokok elektronik atau vape dijalankan secara serentak melalui dasar Generasi Penamat (GEG).

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Lukanisman Awang Sauni berkata pihaknya mengambil maklum pandangan yang dikemukakan semua pihak sebelum Rang Undang-Undang Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2023 dimulakan pada 2027.

"Ada beberapa perkara lagi

mengenai (peruntukan dalam rang undang-undang membabitkan) khidmat masyarakat dan review berkenaan GEG terhadap produk vape, ada pandangan rang undang-undang itu pada dasarnya akan mewujudkan generasi penamat rokok terlebih dahulu kemudian diteruskan kepada vape dan ada pandangan yang bercadang untuk GEG diadakan secara serentak.

"KKM akan sedaya upaya untuk memastikan segala pandangan ahli Parlimen diambil berat. Antara perkara yang ditekankan

di Parlimen adalah kompaun yang terlalu rendah, hanya sekitar RM500 berbanding dengan cadangan asal RM5,000 dan kini kompaun sedia ada pada peringkat RM1,000," katanya di Dewan Negara, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Senator Datuk Lim Pay Hen mengenai kekusaran utama yang menyebabkan rang undang-undang itu tidak dapat diluluskan di Dewan Rakyat baru-baru ini dan dirujuk kepada Jawatankuasa Pilihan Khas (JKPK) Kesihatan Parlimen.

BERNAMA

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Ubat kuat, sendi paling banyak!

JKN Pahang rampas ubat tak berdaftar, kosmetik tak bernetifikasi berjumlah RM3.2 juta sejak 2018

Oleh Asrol Awang
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Kuantan

Sejumlah RM3.2 juta nilai rampasan membatalkan ubat tidak berdaftar dan kosmetik tidak bernetifikasi di Pahang dari 2018 hingga 12 Jun lalu.

Pengarah Jabatan kesihatan Negeri (JKN) Pahang Datuk Nor Azimi Yunus berkata, sepanjang tempoh itu, nilai rampasan tertinggi yang direkodkan tahun lalu berjumlah RM1.2 juta.

Katanya, dalam serbuan terbaru pada 12 Jun lalu, sejumlah RM193,000 nilai ubat tidak berdaftar dan kosmetik tidak bernetifikasi dirampas di dua premis, masing-masing satu premis di Kuantan dan Temerloh.

"Berdasarkan laporan, kebanyakan ubat tidak berdaftar yang dirampas ialah ubat kuat dan ubat sendi manakala kosmetik tidak bernetifikasi pula lebih kepada kecantikan wajah."

"Serbuan yang dilakukan JKN Pahang melalui Cawa-



NOR Azimi (tengah) menunjukkan aplikasi Sobat Pahang dan sebahagian sampel ubat dan kosmetik tidak berdaftar serta tidak bernetifikasi pada sidang media pelancaran inisiatif Sobat Pahang di ibu pejabat JKN Pahang, semalam.

ngan Penguatkuasaan Farmasi (CPF) untuk memastikan masyarakat tidak membeli ubat dan kosmetik tanpa kelulusan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

"Kita bimbang penggunaan ubat tidak berdaftar dan kosmetik tidak bernetifikasi

menyebabkan kesan sampingan kepada pengguna," katanya pada sidang media selepas melancarkan inisiatif Sahabat Ubat Pahang (Sobat Pahang) di ibu pejabat JKN Pahang, di sini semalam.

Sobat Pahang adalah pusat sehati untuk memu-

dahkan orang awam menyalurkan aduan ke CPF Pahang serta mendapatkan maklumat berkenaan ubat berdaftar dan kosmetik bernetifikasi.

Nor Azimi berkata, Sobat Pahang dilengkapi dengan fungsi semakan status pen-

daftaran ubat dan notifikasi kosmetik di pautan Quest 3+.

Katanya, masyarakat boleh menyemak ketulenan hologram di pautan Farmachecker, status kelulusan iklan ubat di pautan www.pharmacy.gov.my/kklu.

"Orang ramai boleh me-



Berdasarkan laporan, kebanyakan ubat tidak berdaftar yang dirampas ialah ubat kuat dan ubat sendi manakala kosmetik tidak bernetifikasi pula lebih kepada kecantikan wajah"

Nor Azimi

nyalurkan maklumat aduan di pautan Salurkan Maklumat Anda dan Sistem Pengurusan Aduan Awam (SisPAA) serta maklumat kesedaran berkaitan ubat berdaftar dan kosmetik di pautan Facebook, TikTok, Twitter dan Instagram.

"Orang awam hanya perlu mengimbas kod QR untuk mengakses pautan Sobat Pahang. Kod QR ini diedarkan di premis farmasi komuniti dan klinik perubatan swasta dan akan diperluaskanedaran ke seluruh Pahang," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Ubat tidak berdaftar bernilai RM3 juta dirampas

KUANTAN – Sebanyak 114,430 ubat tidak berdaftar dan kosmetik tidak bernoifikasi bernilai kira-kira RM3 juta dirampas Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pahang dari tahun 2018 hingga 2022.

Pengarah Kesihatan negeri, Datuk Dr. Nor Azimi Yunus berkata, rampasan melibatkan serbuan ke atas 382 premis dalam tempoh berkenaan.

"Turut dirampas peranti digital seperti komputer peribadi, komputer riba dan telefon bimbit yang digunakan medium untuk memasarkan produk.

"Rampasan tertinggi direkodkan pada 2022, sebanyak RM1.2 juta," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas melan-

carkan inisiatif Sahabat Ubat Pahang (Sobat) di sini semalam.

Menurutnya Jabatan Kesihatan melalui Cawangan Penguatkuasaan Farmasi (CPF Pahang) akan akan terus menjalankan pemantauan dan serbuan ke atas penjual ubat tidak berdaftar di negeri berkenaan.

Katanya, dalam serbuan terbaharu 12 Jun lalu, pelbagai ubat tidak berdaftar dan kosmetik tidak bernoifikasi bernilai RM193,000 dirampas di Kuantan dan Temerloh.

Katanya, Sobat Pahang adalah pusat sehati bagi memudahkan orang awam menyalurkan aduan berkaitan ubat berdaftar dan kosmetik bernoifikasi.



DR. NOR AZIMI (tengah) menunjukkan ubat tidak berdaftar yang dirampas di Kuantan semalam.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 13
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

GEG: KKM kaji kawalan penggunaan rokok, vape serentak

KUALA LUMPUR

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) akan mengkaji cadangan supaya kawalan penggunaan rokok dan rokok elektronik dijalankan secara serentak melalui dasar Generasi Penamat (GEG).

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"Ada beberapa perkara lagi tentang (peruntukan dalam rang undang-undang melibatkan) khidmat masyarakat dan review berkenaan tentang GEG terhadap produk vape... ada pandangan rang undang-undang itu pada dasarnya akan mewujudkan generasi penamat



LUKANISMAN

rokok terlebih dahulu kemudian diteruskan kepada vape dan ada pandangan yang ber-cadang untuk GEG diadakan secara serentak.

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kara yang ditekankan di Parlimen adalah kompaun yang terlalu rendah, hanya sekitar RM500 berbanding dengan cadangan asal RM5,000 dan kini kompaun sedia ada pada peringkat RM1,000," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika menjawab soalan tambahan **Senator Datuk Lim Pay Hen** mengenai kekusaran utama yang menyebabkan rang undang-undang itu tidak dapat diluluskan di Dewan Rakyat baru-baru ini dan dirujuk kepada Jawatankuasa Pilihan Khas (JKPK) Kesihatan Parlimen. - Bernama

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 1
RUANGAN : MUKA HADAPAN

Gaji doktor tidak setimpal kepakaran

Oleh AHMAD FADHLULLAH ADNAN
dan MOHD. FADHLI MOHD. SULAIMAN
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PETALING JAYA: Pendapatan yang tidak setimpal dengan kepakaran dan beban tugas punca ramai dalam kalangan pegawai perubatan enggan mendalami bidang menjadi doktor pakar.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Presiden Pertubuhan Doktor-doktor Islam Malaysia (Perdim), Dr. Boi Saidi Abdul Razak berkata, gaji doktor pakar dalam perkhidmatan awam tidak ber-

Punca ramai pegawai perubatan enggan jadi pakar

sandar kepada kecekapan individu, tetapi lebih bergantung kepada gred.

Katanya, apa yang lebih mengecewakan bagi golongan itu adalah kenaikan gred dan pangkat dibuat mengikut kementerian seseorang pegawai perubatan itu.

"Oleh itu mereka yang melanjutkan pelajaran di luar negara lebih berminat berkhidmat di negara mereka belajar dan enggan balik ke Malaysia disebabkan elaun, gaji dan fasiliti yang lebih mem-berangsangkan.

"Apabila pulang ke Malaysia pula, kebanyakan masuk ke (perkhidmatan kesihatan) swasta yang mana gajinya lebih tinggi berbanding kerajaan yang bergantung kepada gred dan kasta ke-kananan.

Bersambung di muka 2

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Gaji doktor tidak setimpal kepakaran

Dari muka 1

"Pakar di swasta lebih fleksibel (berbanding pakar di kerajaan) tugas yang banyak, isu penempatan tugas di merata-rata tempat, jadi semua perkara ini yang membuat pegawai pakar kecewa dengan sistem kerajaan," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini, semalam.

Gaji pegawai perubatan pakar pada gred UD52 bermula RM5,000 lebih sebulan sehingga kadar maksimum RM12,000 tidak termasuk elaun, namun terpaksa berdepan dengan pesakit yang ramai dan isu-isu kemanan.

Di sektor perubatan swasta, gaji doktor pakar bermula RM50,000 sehingga mencecah RM100,000 bergantung kepada jumlah pesakit dan kepakaran yang dimiliki.

Bagi mengatasi masalah kekurangan doktor pakar di hospital awam, Boi Saidi menyarankan, kerajaan menawarkan inisiatif untuk menarik pakar berkhidmat di sistem kesihatan awam.

"Yang ada pastikan mereka tidak letak jawatan dan tarik mereka (panggil balik) yang berkhidmat di luar negara," jelasnya.

Kelmarin akhbar ini melaporkan, Malaysia hanya mempunyai 6,985 pakar perubatan yang berkhidmat di kira-kira 70 hospital daripada 145 hospital kerajaan di seluruh negara.

Kekurangan doktor pakar ini melibatkan pelbagai bidang



Sumber manusia memang tidak cukup. Sebab itu ada hospital kerajaan langsung tiada pakar. Jadi, kita perlu menggalakkan lebih ramai menyambung pengajian ke peringkat kepakaran."

LEE BOON CHYE

antaranya pakar kardiotorasik (jantung), onkologi (kanser), perubatan paliatif (kanser), perubatan geriatrik (penyakit orang tua), neurosurgeri (otak), obstetrik (sakit puan) dan ginekologi serta psikiatri.

Semakan juga mendapati terdapat lebih 60 hospital kerajaan tiada doktor pakar dan kebanyakannya di luar bandar dan pedalaman.

Sementara itu, bekas Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Dr. Lee Boon Chye berkata, kerajaan juga perlu menilai semula kuota Hadiah Latihan Persekutuan (HLP) jika mencukupi untuk doktor perubatan melanjutkan pelajaran ke peringkat kepakaran.

"Sumber manusia memang tidak cukup. Sebab itu ada hospital kerajaan langsung tiada pakar. Jadi, kita perlu menggalakkan lebih ramai menyambung pengajian ke peringkat kepakaran.

"Bagaimanapun, peluang itu harus bermula dari kerajaan dengan menawarkan HLP. Katakannya sekarang ada 1,000 HLP diberi, lihat semula jika tawaran ini cukup. Jika tidak, maka perlu dikaji semula," katanya.

Menurut Boon Chye, kebanyakan doktor pakar khususnya melibatkan hospital kerajaan lebih tertumpu di Lembah Klang manakala jumlah itu di Sabah dan Sarawak dilihat 'lebih mencabar'.

Beliau berkata, untuk itu kerajaan perlu mengambil kira kawasan terpencil yang bukan sahaja memerlukan khidmat doktor pakar malah fasiliti kesihatan yang moden.

Beliau yang juga pakar kardiotorasik berkata, isu kekurangan doktor pakar di hospital kerajaan berlaku di seluruh dunia, namun paling penting adalah bagaimana kerajaan menggunakan tenaga sumber manusia secara optimum dan tidak 'membazirkan' bakat tempatan.

"Apabila kerajaan sudah mengenal pasti jumlah doktor pakar yang diperlukan untuk bertugas di hospital, dari situ mudah untuk mereka digerakkan bertugas di mana-mana hospital kerajaan terutama yang masih tiada pakar," ujarnya.

Jasad lelaki di Hospital Kajang bukan 'Basni Sabrah' - JPN

"Kini kami hanya menunggu keputusan pihak hospital, jika hari ini (semalam) dapat pelepasan, jenazah akan dikebumikan dengan segera," katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Covid-19, gelombang haba punca demam, selesema

Oleh FAHMI FAIZ
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PETALING JAYA: Kes-kes demam, batuk dan selesema yang menular sekarang berpunca dua faktor iaitu kemungkinan jangkitan Covid-19 serta gelombang haba.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Pakar Kesihatan Komuniti Fakulti Perubatan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Prof. Dr. Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh berkata, sikap masyarakat yang memandang ringan wabak Covid-19 dan mengabaikan SOP mungkin mengakibatkan

seseorang itu dijangkiti wabak tersebut tanpa disedari.

Justeru menurut beliau, tidak mengejutkan apabila kini berlaku peningkatan kes selesema, demam dan batuk yang merupakan simptom Covid-19.

"Sejak April 2021 kita sudah ambil ringan dan mengambil Covid-19 sebagai satu endemik. Kita sudah tidak pakai pelitup muka, kita juga sudah menganggap terpaksa hidup bersama dengan wabak Covid-19.

"Maka, walaupun sekarang kita ada Covid-19 yang mungkin mendorong batuk dan selesema, kita mungkin terpaksa

meneruskan kehidupan dengan Covid-19.

"Jadi, ramai yang mungkin ada (terkena jangkitan) tapi kita tiada simptom teruk dan tidak menganggap ia satu simptom Covid-19. Kita juga tak periksa, maka kita tak tahu berapa banyak kes-kes Covid sekarang," katanya di sini, semalam.

Sharifa Ezat berkata, fenomena suhu panas yang melanda negara juga merupakan faktor peningkatan kes demam, batuk dan selesema.

"Kes batuk dan selesema sekarang ini juga mungkin akibat fenomena kepanasan yang

dipanggil gelombang haba. Ini menyebabkan ramai batuk dan selesema serta rengsa di tekak.

"Ini selalunya kes-kes yang sedikit ini tidak memerlukan seseorang itu masuk wad. Bagaimanapun dalam kes begini ada juga kes batuk, selesema dan demam yang teruk," katanya.

Justeru, katanya masyarakat perlu peka dengan tahap kesihatan masing-masing dan segera mendapatkan rawatan jika menunjukkan jangkitan teruk seperti influenza, demam campak disusuli batuk serta keradangan tonsil.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 32
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

'Ranjau berliku' 147km jumpa pakar

Oleh SURAIDAH ROSLAN
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KOTA KINABALU: Berulang-alik mendapatkan rawatan susulan di Hospital Queen Elizabeth (HQE) sudah menjadi rutin bagi Asneh Bakri, 68, selepas menjalani pembedahan kanser rahim kira-kira 10 tahun lalu.

Pesakit yang tinggal jauh di pedalaman Sabah itu terpaksa menaiki kenderaan sejauh 147 kilometer dari Tenom ke HQE, Kota Kinabalu untuk janji temu dengan doktor pakar.

Menurutnya selepas menjalani pembedahan pada 2013, dia terpaksa ke Kota Kinabalu sekali dalam tempoh sebulan untuk rawatan susulan dan berjumpa doktor pakar. Rutin rawatan susulan setiap bulan itu berterusan selama tempoh setahun.

Selepas itu, rawatan susulan menjadi sekali dalam tempoh tiga bulan dan sekarang, sekali dalam tempoh enam bulan.

Menurut Asneh, biarpun janji temu dengan doktor pakar tidak sekerap dahulu namun masih ada kos pengangkutan dan penginapan yang perlu ditang-



HOSPITAL Tenom yang terletak kira-kira 107 kilometer perjalanan dari Kota Kinabalu.

gung.

"Biasanya suami saya akan memandu kerana kami mempunyai kenderaan sendiri, jadi pergerakan agak mudah untuk ke hospital.

"Tetapi kos minyak sahaja mencecah RM100 bagi perjalanan yang mengambil masa lebih

dua jam," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Aseh berkata, mereka bukan hanya perlu fikirkan kos perjalanan tetapi juga risiko keselamatan sepanjang perjalanan kerana laluan dari Tenom ke Kota Kinabalu berbukit bukau.

Katanya, sekiranya Hospi-

tal Tenom mempunyai doktor pakar maka pesakit yang perlu rawatan susulan seperti ini tidak perlu lagi ke hospital di Kota Kinabalu mahupun di Keningau.

Sementara itu, Ketua Kampong Gelam-Gelam di Pulau Bum Bum Semporna, Mohd.

Yunus Madjirin berkata, tinggal di kawasan pulau yang hanya dilengkap dengan klinik kesihatan menyebabkan penduduk di pulau itu meredah lautan bergelora untuk ke hospital daerah mahupun ke Hospital Tawau.

Katanya, biarpun fasiliti kesihatan di Hospital Semporna sudah bertambah baik berbanding 10 tahun dahulu namun hospital itu masih tidak mempunyai doktor pakar.

Maka sekiranya pesakit ingin bertemu doktor pakar, mereka perlu ke Hospital Tawau yang terletak kira-kira 107 kilometer atau sejam perjalanan.

"Mungkin sudah tiba masa untuk Kementerian Kesihatan menempatkan doktor-doktor pakar di hospital yang berada di kawasan luar bandar bagi membolehkan rakyat menerima kemudahan kesihatan yang lebih baik.

"Pada masa sama, kemudahan Klinik Kesihatan Pulau Bum Bum juga perlu dinaik taraf agar dapat memberi kemudahan kesihatan yang lebih baik kepada penduduk di 58 buah kampung di pulau berkenaan," katanya.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATION

Families tell of how they saved lives

By MAHADHIR MONIHULDIN
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PETALING JAYA: Former nurse Jenny Ursula Peter James had registered as a donor and told her family and friends about it.

When she was 33, Jenny, the third of five siblings, suffered a brain haemorrhage and went into a coma on April 4. She was declared brain dead the next day.

Her family then agreed to donate her corneas to two patients who were urgently in need.

Her sister Marilyn, 40, said the doctors asked if the family was

willing to donate her healthy organs to help save lives.

"Our family sat down to discuss it and decided to go ahead. We felt that it would not only save lives; part of her would still be alive," she said.

"I think we made the right decision. I believe she would be proud."

Tan Jian Wei, 31, was a construction worker who was killed when a lorry hit his motorcycle while he was travelling from Kuala Lumpur to Petaling Jaya on Feb 18.

He, too, had pledged to donate his organs.

The family donated his organs

after he was pronounced brain dead after the accident.

His elder brother, Jun How, 36, said his brother was rushed to the Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (PPUM) but was pronounced brain dead a day later.

His brother had pledged to donate his corneas and kidneys.

"There were immediate recipients for the two kidneys and corneas, which was fortunate because corneas only have a two-week deadline," he said.

He added that his younger brother never drank or smoked and spent most of his time working at construction sites.

"He had two wishes in life: the first was to buy a house and the second was to find a girlfriend and get married."

"While he achieved his first dream, he will never be able to attain the second," he said.

According to Jun How, doctors successfully performed surgery to remove his brother's corneas and kidneys on Feb 20.

Both Jun How and Marilyn hoped that the stories of their siblings would encourage more Malaysians to register as organ donors.

They said they want to help people who really need the organs to live.

Victims of investment scams give more reports to SSM

KUALA LUMPUR: Over 100 victims who lost over RM1mil to scammers running bogus investment schemes have provided further statements to the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) for it to investigate companies suspected of embezzlement and fraud.

Representing the victims, Malaysian International Humanitarian Organisation (MHO) secretary-general Datuk Hishamuddin Hashim said he hoped that the additional statements would help SSM.

According to him, there have been no arrests since the complaints were filed last March.

"With reference to Section 27A of the SSM Act, which provides for enforcement and investigative powers, the registrar (SSM chief executive officer) shall have all the powers of a police officer in all matters provided for in the proceedings."

"This means that the SSM has the power of arrest. They have police powers. You do not have to wait for the police. SSM has the authority to make arrests in cases where an investment scheme is not registered under the Interest Schemes Act 2012," he told a press conference at Menara SSM @ Sentral here yesterday, Bernama reported.

According to Hishamuddin, company directors who operate investment schemes without registering with the SSM under the Interest Schemes Act may be subject to a maximum fine of RM50 million or a jail term of up to 10 years.

This is the third step taken by the scam victims after they lodged reports with the police and Securities Commission in March and April respectively, he said.

Most of the victims admitted that they became interested in the investment schemes after the companies used the names of celebrities, royals, former government officials and religious figures who were later found not to be involved in the schemes.

A father of a famous athlete, who wished to remain anonymous, said he lost RM150,000 after believing that the investment scheme was a product of a local bank.

"The representative who introduced me to the scheme with returns of up to 6% per month was actually a bank employee. I only received the bonus for the first three months and to this day, I have not received any money," he said.

A dire need for organ donation

Some 9,000 kidney patients on the waiting list for transplants

By TEH ATHIRA YUSOF
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PETALING JAYA: There are 9,070 kidney patients who are waiting for an organ transplant, according to the National Transplant Resource Centre (NTRC).

As at May this year, only 31 people had had organ transplants – and that includes liver, heart and other transplants. There is an acute need for organ donors in the country.

According to the NTRC, kidney patients make up the highest percentage of those needing organ transplants. They make up 9,070 of the 9,097 on the waiting list.

Of that number, 8,833 patients are adults needing kidneys and 237 are paediatric kidney patients.

The remaining patients waiting for organ transplants include 11 liver patients (nine adults and two children), 14 heart patients and two heart and lung patients.

NTRC deputy director Dr Hasdy Haron said it is essential to identify individuals who have committed to donating their organs.

Some fall through the cracks, as it is not known that they pledged their organs.

"Based on a previous study by the NTRC, we missed out on almost 3,000 potential donors

because we were not able to detect them earlier," he told *The Star*.

"We have reminded hospital staff and our team to ask relatives if their family members who were declared cardiac or brain dead had pledged their organ donors, so we will not miss an opportunity to save lives," he said.

He said there are also plans to develop an information system where public hospitals can track the donor status of an individual. However, he acknowledged that the mechanism must address the confidentiality of the donors.

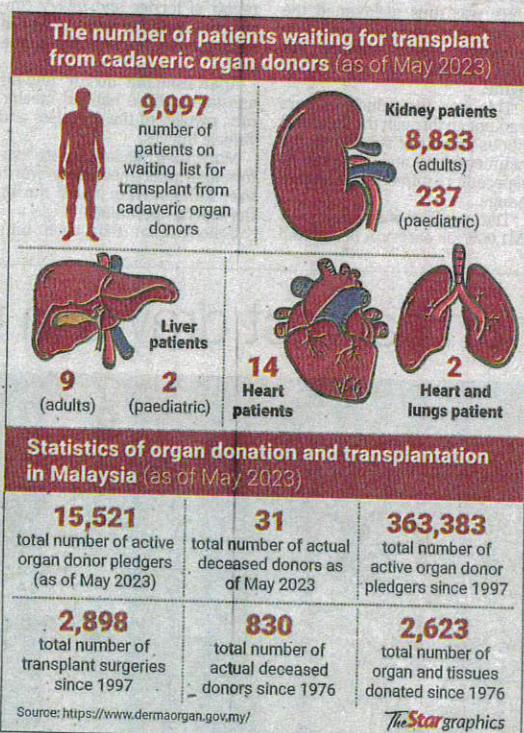
"The trend of cadaveric organ donation over the last five years is not enough. The annual trend for organ donation is only around 30 to 40."

"We are receiving a steady number of pledges, reaching up to thousands every month."

As at May, the centre had received 15,521 active pledges for cadaveric organ donation for this year.

It is understood that kidney patients can wait up to 10 years for transplants, unlike other organ transplant patients, thanks to dialysis.

Another setback on organ donation, Dr Hasdy said, is the refusal by family members to



consent to organ donation because they had not been informed earlier.

According to the National Transplant Procurement Management (NTPM), refusal to consent is the second highest reason for failed organ donation since 2001 through May 24 this year.

"It is best for individuals to discuss with family members after pledging as organ donors."

"While there is no consent needed to pledge as a donor for those above 18, we have reminded those who pledged to discuss the matter with their families," he said.

Dr Hasdy said there are programmes by the NTRC such as

Jom Ikrar, Jom Bincang and Let's Talk through which pledgers can inform and discuss with their families.

MySejahtera's new feature for the public to register as organ donors last year also allows for the next of kin to be informed of a person's decision to become a donor.

"This is important for both those who pledged and their families, as it is still a sensitive topic."

On the other hand, there are also families who donate the organs of relatives who had passed on without pledging to be donors.

"In fact, less than 20% of our actual cadaveric donors are registered as pledgers," said Dr Hasdy.

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Federal Court clears the air for all

Many laud court's decision, call for indoor smoking ban to be strictly enforced

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PETALING JAYA: The government's indoor smoking ban should now be strictly enforced, say non-smokers, restaurateurs and health experts after the Federal Court threw out a case challenging the law.

While they supported the ban, eatery owners urged the government to review penalties imposed on restaurants where smokers were caught flouting the law.

Malaysian Medical Association president Dr. Muruga Raj Rajathurai hailed the decision, saying that the ban on smoking must now be enforced strictly.

"Smoking is a serious public health concern as it not only endangers the health of smokers but also people in their presence through second-hand and even third-hand smoke," he said when contacted yesterday.

He hoped the court's ruling would give greater impetus to the authorities to strictly enforce the ban.

"There are still some smokers who openly flout the law in certain areas throughout the country," he said.

On Tuesday, a three-judge panel of the Federal Court unanimously dismissed a leave application by



Don't light up: The indoor smoking ban still stands after the Federal Court threw out a case challenging the law. — K.T. GOH/The Star

seven smokers seeking to challenge the smoking ban at eateries.

The seven, who called themselves the Smokers Right Club, were also ordered to pay RM30,000 in costs to the government.

The group began their challenge to the smoking ban at all eateries on Dec 31, 2018, a day before its enforcement on Jan 1, 2019.

They argued that smoking is a permissible activity allowed by

the Constitution and is not illegal.

On Nov 23 last year, a three-member Court of Appeal bench upheld the ban, ruling that smoking in public places is not a fundamental right protected under the Federal Constitution.

Public health medicine specialist Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said there should no longer be any doubt about the government's legal mandate to enforce the ban "fairly and appropriately" follow-

ing the court's ruling.

Under the ban, those found smoking or vaping in prohibited areas may be issued a RM250 compound or face a RM10,000 fine if taken to court.

Malaysian Muslim Restaurant Owners Association (Presma) president Datuk Jawahar Ali Taib Khan also agreed with the court's decision.

"Restaurants and eateries are also family gathering places, especially during the weekends. The ban will ensure parents and especially their young children are not exposed to harmful cigarette smoke," he said.

Although he agreed that smokers who flout the law should be fined, Jawahar said the ministry should reconsider the penalties imposed on eateries where smokers are caught.

Restaurant operators who fail to put up no-smoking signs risk a fine not exceeding RM3,000 or jail time of up to six months.

And restaurateurs who fail to act against smokers on their premises risk a RM5,000 fine or a year in jail.

"There was an incident where I called the authorities to report several smokers smoking in a prohibited area near my restaurant," Jawahar said.

"I was shocked when I was also fined by the health officers who

said that it was the law."

Also applauding the ruling was Kuala Lumpur Bumiputra Traders and Hawkers Association vice-president Datuk Muhammad Baba Kutty.

He said the ban is not total, as there are still designated areas where smokers can light up.

"Singapore implemented a similar ban and so far the people have no issues with it. We should be able to handle a smoking ban too," he said.

Muhammad Baba said most eatery operators have accepted the ban since its implementation in 2019.

Restaurant and Bistro Owners Association vice-president Jeremy Lim said the court made the right decision.

"The ban is not encroaching on people's right to smoke and smokers should respect people's right to eat at restaurants without being bothered by cigarette smoke," he said.

Lim also suggested that the government review the penalties imposed on restaurant owners.

"Whenever a person decides to violate the ban at a particular eatery, both the consumer and restaurant owner are penalised.

"The penalty can be detrimental for restaurant businesses and the government should review this aspect of the ban," he said.