

AKHBAR : THE STAR  
MUKA SURAT : 15  
RUANGAN : VIEWS

THE STAR M1515 VIEWS 18/12/2024 (RABU)

## Good Samaritan Law will encourage civic responsibility

WE refer to the report "M'sia mulls Good Samaritan Law" (*Sunday Star*, Dec 15).

The Alliance for a Safe Community supports this initiative, which was announced by Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, as it is a vital step in encouraging civic responsibility and fostering a culture of compassion and care in our society.

A Good Samaritan Law aims to provide legal protection to individuals who act in good faith to assist others in emergency situations.

These individuals, often referred to as "Good Samaritans", deserve recognition and support for their willingness to render aid without fear of legal repercussions.

With protection from liability, more people would be willing to step forward and help others in distress, potentially saving lives.

This law can complement public health strategies by encouraging timely assistance in cases such as overdose interventions or emergency first aid.

However, it must be carefully

drafted to define the scope of protection and ensure it applies only to acts of genuine good faith. Proper education about the law and basic emergency response skills must be provided to avoid misunderstandings or mishaps.

We urge the government to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, legal experts, and community organisations, to craft a comprehensive and balanced Good Samaritan Law.

Public education campaigns should accompany the legislation

to ensure that Malaysians understand their rights and responsibilities under this law.

As an organisation dedicated to promoting safety and health in our community, Alliance for a Safe Community believes that a Good Samaritan Law will inspire greater compassion, accountability, and unity among Malaysians.

We stand ready to support the government in realising this noble vision.

**TAN SRI LEE LAM THYE**  
Chairman  
Alliance For A Safe Community

AKHBAR : THE SUN  
MUKA SURAT : 4  
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

THE SUN M/S 4 NATIONAL 18/12/2024 (RABU)



# 'Medication vending machines could ease healthcare strain'

► Experts highlight benefits but call for stronger security and regulatory frameworks to prevent abuse

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**PETALING JAYA:** As Malaysia continues to grapple with long queues in public hospitals and clinics, the idea of vending machines dispensing medication and medical certificates (MC) has sparked interest among health professionals.

Singapore has already implemented such machines as a convenient way to access basic healthcare.

However, concerns have been raised regarding potential data breaches and the need to tighten regulatory frameworks to uphold healthcare standards.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia public health medicine specialist Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh said: "Vending machines could be viable in urban areas due to greater IT and health literacy, but they may present a challenge in rural areas, even though one of the objectives of vending machines is to cater to such settings."

Sharifa Ezat noted that while such technology could enhance convenience, there are risks of hacking or database interception, which could increase the cost of treatment due to the expensive security investments required for implementation.

She also expressed concerns about the ability of vending machines to manage

patients with complex medical histories, as a doctor would still need to examine the patient first.

However, she added that the model might work for those with fewer comorbidities.

Sharifa Ezat stressed the importance of strict regulatory frameworks to ensure vending machines comply with healthcare standards.

"Malaysia needs to invest in 'health AI' and strengthen the existing Data Protection Act to ensure data is not leaked, hacked or sold elsewhere."

In terms of ethical considerations, she said vending machines would not entirely replace human interaction as consultations - whether in-person or online - would still involve a doctor.

Despite this, she acknowledged the potential for abuse as online consultations could lead to illegitimate MC claims.

"If implemented, vending machines could significantly impact the healthcare landscape by reducing the need for general practitioners and clinics. It would also reduce congestion, waiting times, and improve treatment access and compliance."

Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations vice-president Datuk Indrani Thuraisingham highlighted successful implementations of medication vending machines in Japan, Australia and the UK, where consumer safety, accessibility and robust regulatory oversight are prioritised.

She noted that vending machines can improve healthcare access, particularly in underserved areas.

"India has introduced mobile medical vans equipped with vending machines in rural areas, connecting patients with teleconsultations and medication dispensation."

Indrani pointed to Japan's highly regulated

approach, where vending machines dispense only over-the-counter drugs, while prescription medications require pharmacist involvement and integration with monitoring systems to track expiry dates and inventory.

"In China and Singapore, telemedicine kiosks integrated with vending machines have helped build consumer trust. These systems combine remote doctor consultations with medication dispensing to ensure a balance between automation and human oversight."

"The UK and South Korea have centralised databases and periodic audits to prevent misuse. Such measures are essential for maintaining accountability and ensuring compliance with healthcare standards."

Indrani also referenced Canada's telemedicine practices, where diagnoses are cross-verified by licensed professionals to prevent misuse.

"Privacy must be a priority, especially when sensitive medical information is involved," she added.

On the economic front, Indrani noted that vending machines could complement existing healthcare providers.

In China and Australia, vending machine operators partner with pharmacies and clinics to share revenue.

"This reduces competition and enhances accessibility. Malaysia should consider a similar collaborative approach."

Indrani believes Malaysia could significantly benefit from medication vending machines, particularly given the current strain on the public healthcare system.

"With careful planning and the adaptation of global best practices, Malaysia has the potential to revolutionise its healthcare system through innovative solutions like vending machines."



AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
MUKA SURAT : 18  
RUANGAN : FORUM



SEMUA jemaah yang bercadang mengerjakan umrah untuk mendapatkan vaksin meningokokus sekurang-kurangnya dua minggu sebelum berangkat ke Tanah Suci.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA M/S 18 FORUM (8/12/2024 (RABU))

## Penyakit meningokokus ancam jemaah umrah

**PADA** masa lalu, wabak penyakit meningokokus invasif dikaitkan dengan perhimpunan keagamaan secara besar-besaran seperti umrah, terutamanya pada 1987 dan ia melanda sekali lagi pada 2000. Letusan wabak ini menunjukkan kepentingan kaedah pencegahan melalui vaksinasi wajib.

Penyakit meningokokus, yang disebabkan oleh bakteria *neisseria meningitidis* (*N. meningitidis*) merebak melalui titisan cecair pernafasan dan air liur, menjangkiti lapisan otak dan saraf tunjang (menyebabkan meningitis) atau aliran darah (septicemia), yang mengakibatkan pendarahan pada pelbagai organ.

Apabila merebak ke dalam darah, ia boleh menyebabkan demam, menggigil, kelesuan, cirit-birit, mual, sesak nafas dan sakit badan. Meningitis adalah penyakit yang memerlukan rawatan kecemasan kerana boleh membawa maut dalam masa 24 jam, dengan gejala seperti demam, leher tegang, sakit kepala, sensitif terhadap cahaya, kebingungan dan koma.

Gejala-gejala ini boleh berkembang dengan pantas dan apabila berjuta-juta jemaah dari pelbagai negara berkumpul dalam keadaan yang sesak seperti ketika menunaikan umrah, jangkitan ini boleh membawa maut.

Walaupun mendapat rawatan, sehingga 15 peratus individu yang dijangkiti akan meninggal dunia dan sehingga 20 peratus daripada pesakit yang berjaya diselamatkan mengalami kesan jangka panjang seperti kecederaan otak, pekak, kerosakan buah pinggang dan kehilangan anggota badan.

Keadaan ini boleh dicegah dengan vaksin meningokokus yang memainkan peranan utama dalam melindungi jemaah dan populasi yang lebih besar.

Di peringkat global pula, penyakit meningokokus dianggarkan menjadi penyebab kepada hampir 300,000 kematian setiap tahun. Walaupun kadar kelaziman penyakit ini di Malaysia masih tidak dapat dipastikan, namun data menunjukkan ramai jemaah pulang ke tanah air sebagai pembawa,

yang melonjakkan kadar jangkitan dalam kalangan ahli keluarga mereka yang tidak divaksin. Ia memberi implikasi besar kepada kesihatan awam, yang diburukkan lagi oleh kerintangan bakteria terhadap penisilin.

Secara ringkasnya, penyakit meningokokus mudah merebak dan cepat berkembang, boleh menjadi penyakit yang sukar dirawat dan walaupun dengan rawatan, ia boleh membawa akibat yang buruk, malah menyebabkan kematian.

Vaksinasi dipersetujui pihak berkuasa kesihatan dan agama.

Objektif syariah (Maqasid syariah) mengutamakan usaha melindungi nyawa dan akal serta mencegah kemudaratan. Justeru, vaksin meningokokus untuk jemaah umrah bukanlah sekadar keperluan teknikal. Sebaliknya, ia adalah kewajipan agama dan tanggungjawab sosial yang perlu dipandang serius oleh semua jemaah, bukan untuk diri sahaja bahkan orang di sekeliling mereka, dengan membantu mencegah ledakan wabak dalam kalangan jemaah semasa umrah dan juga mengelakkan penularan penyakit apabila kembali ke tanah air.

Dengan mengambil kira beban penyakit meningokokus invasif, yang melibatkan kos kewangan untuk rawatan, kemasukan ke hospital dan penjagaan jangka panjang, sehinggalah kepada ketidakupayaan sepanjang hayat.

Saya menggesa semua jemaah yang bercadang mengerjakan umrah untuk mendapatkan vaksin meningokokus sekurang-kurangnya dua minggu sebelum berangkat ke Tanah Suci, termasuklah mereka yang telah menerima vaksin lebih tiga tahun yang lalu.

Hanya dengan satu langkah yang mudah ini, anda boleh melindungi diri sendiri, rakan jemaah dan orang yang disayangi.

**DATUK DR. MUSA MOHD NORDIN**

Pengerusi, Majlis Penasihat, Persekutuan  
Persatuan Perubatan Islam (FIMA)  
Pakar Perunding Pediatrik, Hospital Pakar Damansara

AKHBAR : KOSMO  
MUKA SURAT : 9  
RUANGAN : NEGARA

KOSMO M/s 9 NEGARA 18/12/2024 (RABU)

## Sampel DNA mangsa dihantar ke HUS

**KUCHING** – Polis sudah menghantar sampel asid deoksiribonukleik (DNA) milik wanita yang dijumpai dalam keadaan hampir reput di kawasan longkang Jalan Setia Raja, Tabuan di sini ke Hospital Umum Sarawak (HUS).

Ketua Polis Daerah Kuching, Asisten Komisioner Mohd. Farhan Lee Abdullah berkata, setakat ini pihaknya masih menunggu laporan itu bagi tujuan pengesahan identiti mayat itu.

"Kami akan mengeluarkan kenyataan selepas pengesahan identiti mangsa dilakukan setelah proses bedah siasat dan



**KERATAN Kosmo! semalam.**

pengcaman mayat selesai," katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Jelas Mohd. Farhan, setakat ini pihaknya masih menyiasat motif sebenar kejadian.

Kosmo! semalam melaporkan mayat seorang wanita ditemu-

kan hampir reput selepas polis menahan lelaki berusia 23 tahun pada Sabtu lalu.

Lelaki tempatan itu direman selama tujuh hari sehingga 22 Disember ini untuk siasatan lanjut kerana disyaki membunuh.

Penemuan mayat mangsa itu dikaitkan dengan kes kehilangan seorang wanita berusia 28 tahun selepas keluar dengan lelaki yang baru dikenalnya sejak 5 Disember lalu.

Berita berhubung kehilangan mangsa turut dimuat naik oleh ahli keluarganya di dalam media sosial sebelum tular.



**LOKASI** penemuan mayat seorang wanita hampir reput di Jalan Setia Raja, Tabuan, Kuching pada Sabtu lalu.



AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : LOKAL

HARIAN METRO M/s 4 18/12/2024 (RABU)

**Kota Kinabalu:** Seorang lelaki parah selepas melecur ketika cuba menyelamatkan diri selepas rumah flat didiaminya terbakar dalam kejadian di Taman Nelly, Kolombong di sini, tengah malam kelmarin.

Mangsa, Woo Chee Ke, 54, melecur hampir seluruh badan dan kini menerima rawatan lanjut di Hospital Queen Elizabeth II di sini.

Ketua Balai Bomba dan Penyelamat (BBP) Lintas, Agustavia Joe Guasi berkata, pihaknya menerima panggilan kecemasan berhubung kejadian berkenaan pada jam 12.49 tengah malam.

Menurutnya, sepasukan enam anggota bersama jentera kemudiannya dikejarkan ke lokasi kejadian berkenaan.

"Sebaik tiba di lokasi, anggota bertugas mendapati sebuah rumah flat di tingkat dua terbakar kira-kira 20 peratus.

"Pasukan bomba kemu-

## Lelaki melecur 80% ketika selamat diri



SEORANG lelaki melecur dalam kebakaran rumah flat di Taman Nelly, Kolombong, Kota Kinabalu dibawa ke Hospital Queen Elizabeth II untuk rawatan lanjut.

diannya bertindak menjalankan operasi memadam menggunakan satu aliran, dua pancutan dengan sumber air dari tangki jentera," katanya ketika dihu-

bungi.

Agustavia berkata, terdapat seorang lelaki melecur 80 peratus ketika cuba menyelamatkan diri daripada kebakaran itu.