

The Star M/S 5 NATION 24/7/2025 (Khamis)

Doctor hires offer relief

But medical fraternity urges tackling allowances for lasting impact

PETALING JAYA: While the announcement to hire over 4,000 new doctors is a much-needed relief for public healthcare, the medical fraternity says issues such as allowances and permanent positions must be addressed too.

Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) president Datuk Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira, who welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement on the new posts, said this was a positive and much-needed step forward in strengthening the public healthcare system and on long-standing issues related to contract doctors.

"It is our hope that these will become permanent positions for contract doctors and that permanent positions be given based on years of service.

"It is also our hope that in addition to using all existing vacant permanent posts, more permanent positions will be created soon so that all remaining contract doctors in the system can be made permanent.

"Once an adequate number of permanent posts are made available, the government should move to abolish the contract employment scheme for doctors. They should reinstate the policy of



Positive strides: Over 4,000 new doctors are being hired, bringing much-needed relief to public healthcare. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star

offering permanent positions to all doctors entering the public healthcare system as practiced in the past," he added.

Dr Kalwinder said this would be crucial to help restore confidence and motivate doctors to join the public sector and remain in it with greater job security and a clearer pathway for career progression.

Hartal Doktor Kontrak spokesperson Dr Muhammad Yassin said many contract healthcare

workers in the health ministry stood to benefit from the latest development.

"We are still hoping for more good news for healthcare in the coming Budget 2026, especially on on-call allowances and other incentives to stop the brain drain in the Health Ministry," he said, adding that many contract doctors planning to leave the service might reconsider with permanent posts now being offered.

In a Facebook post, Hartal

Doktor Kontrak also said several contract doctors received emails notifying them of permanent placement following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday morning.

"Hopefully, other contract healthcare workers under the Health Ministry would also get a permanent offer in the near future," it added.

MMA Sabah branch past chairman Dr Brandon Patrick called for more doctors to be posted in Sabah and Sarawak, adding that incentives should be given to those posted to both states.

He expressed his support for the Sabah government's proposal to provide an additional special allowance to doctors stationed in Sabah and Sarawak.

Another doctor in a Sabah hospital said: "For those asked to work in Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan, the regional allowance problem has not even been settled."

He said a recent announcement to lower the regional allowance for newcomers and the unfulfilled pledge to increase the on-call allowance to between RM55 and RM65 were a deterrence.

'EXTRAORDINARY TRIBUTE'

NST m/s 4 Nasion 24/7 (2025) (Khamis)

GOVT TO FILL 4,300 HEALTHCARE POSTS

Posts for doctors, medical officers increased to ensure people get best healthcare, says PM

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THE Health Ministry is working to fill more than 4,352 positions at healthcare facilities nationwide, particularly contract doctors, by year end, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

He said the government had increased the number of posts for doctors and medical officers to ensure people received the best possible healthcare.

Anwar, who is finance minister, said the country's strong economic growth had allowed for initiatives to improve people's livelihoods.

He said Malaysia's economy remained on a strong and convincing path, as reflected not only by domestic performance but also by international recognition.

"The ringgit's value reflects growing confidence, strengthening more than five per cent against the US dollar up to the mid-year.

"The ringgit stands at RM4.23, placing it among the top five performing Asian currencies this



Sultanah Aminah Hospital in Johor Baru. Earlier this month, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi said the healthcare worker shortage in the state was 'serious and critical'. NSTP FILE PIC

year," he said.

"Gross domestic product growth for the first quarter stood at 4.4 per cent, and based on early estimates, the second quarter is expected to reach 4.5 per cent," he said in a nationally televised address yesterday.

Anwar announced a series of initiatives aimed at easing the rising cost of living, calling it an "extraordinary tribute" to Malaysians and a reflection of the Madani government's commitment to public welfare.

They include direct cash aid, targeted subsidies, a toll hike freeze and cheaper RON95 fuel.

Anwar said the country's economic recovery was recognised globally.

"Malaysia climbed 11 spots to 23rd place in the International Institute for Management Development World Competitiveness Ranking 2025.

"Last year, we recorded the highest approved investments in history at RM384 billion, a 17 per cent increase from 2023, and this figure is expected to rise further this year."

Earlier this month, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi said the healthcare worker shortage in the state was "serious and critical", following a visit to Sultan Ismail Hospital in Johor Baru.

He said there were nurses who had to manage up to 14 patients per shift due to the shortage.

TODAY

NST MIS 4 Nakhon 24/7/2025 (Khamit)

Anwar: Sejahtera Madani scheme will help eradicate hardcore poverty

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will launch the Sejahtera Madani initiative today as part of efforts to eradicate hardcore poverty, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the initiative was a continuation of the government's commitment to supporting the hardcore poor and the poor, through joint efforts by the government and the corporate sector.

"Eradicating hardcore poverty has been my priority since the beginning.

"By the end of 2024, nearly 150,000 hardcore poor households were lifted out of poverty."



He said this during a special announcement yesterday that was broadcast live on television channels and social media.

Anwar, who is finance minister, said the government had been improving assistance to the people to ease the burden of living expenses since the beginning of his tenure.

He said one of the most significant steps was the allocation of RM13 billion for Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah and Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (Sara), the largest such allocation in the nation's history.

"Cash assistance under the Social Welfare Department was increased to RM2.9 billion to boost

the monthly welfare assistance for the elderly and children from poor families."

He said the government also empowered padi farmers by raising the padi floor price to RM1,500 this year, following increases in 2022 and 2023, and increasing the padi price subsidy scheme rate to RM500 in 2023.

In the commodity sector, he said the government increased the rubber production incentive to RM3 per kg last year, following increases in 2022 and 2023.

He announced a one-off RM100 cash aid to every adult citizen under the Sara programme, post-

poned the toll rate increase for 10 highways and lowered the RON95 price to RM1.99 per litre.

He said more initiatives would be introduced in the 2026 Budget in October.

"These are the measures for now.

"By the end of 2025, we hope to improve with a clearer commitment to provide benefits in the 2026 Budget in October."

He said the Madani government was committed to steering the country responsibly by introducing policies that guarantee the welfare of the people. Bernama

Pengumuman beri semangat pekerja kesihatan kontrak

Langkah isi 4,352 jawatan menjelang akhir tahun disifatkan penyelesaian jangka pendek

Oleh Ilah Hafiz Aziz
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Kuala Lumpur: Langkah kerajaan untuk menyegerakan pengisian lebih 4,352 perjawatan di fasiliti kesihatan terutama doktor kontrak menjelang akhir tahun ini, disifatkan penyelesaian bersifat sementara dan jangka pendek.

Jurucakap Hartal Doktor Kontrak (HDK), Dr Muhammad

Yassin, berkata pengumuman Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim itu dilihat tidak menyelesaikan keseluruhan masalah yang menyelubungi isu doktor kontrak.

Beliau berkata, ketika ini jumlah doktor kontrak masih ramai dan pengumuman itu mungkin tidak mencukupi jika dilihat dari sudut jangka masa yang panjang.

“Jumlah doktor kontrak negara hari ini masih lagi ramai. Pengumuman ini, sedikit sebanyak memberi *short term relief* (kelegaan sementara) kerana ia masih tidak cukup untuk jangka masa panjang.

“Oleh itu, kami menantikan lebih banyak pengumuman menerusi Bajet 2026, terutama berkenaan elaun *oncall* dan insentif lain dalam mengekang penghij-

rahan doktor keluar dari Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM),” katanya kepada BH, di sini semalam.

Tingkat moral

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Dr Muhammad berkata, HDK tetap menyambut baik pengumuman Perdana Menteri khususnya dalam meningkatkan moral ramai pekerja sektor kesihatan negara untuk memberi perkhidmatan lebih cemerlang.

“Pengumuman ini sudah tentu akan memberi lebih semangat dan kegembiraan kepada pekerja kesihatan bertaraf kontrak. Kami menyambut baik pengumuman PMX,” katanya.

Dalam pengumuman khas secara langsung di televisyen semalam, Perdana Menteri mengumumkan, kerajaan telah menam-

bah bilangan jawatan doktor dan pegawai perubatan bagi menyediakan perkhidmatan kesihatan terbaik untuk rakyat.

Katanya, Kementerian Kesihatan akan menyegerakan usaha mengisi lebih 4,352 perjawatan dalam fasiliti kesihatan, terutama doktor kontrak di seluruh negara menjelang hujung tahun ini.

Anwar yang juga Menteri Kewangan, berkata pertumbuhan ekonomi meyakinkan membolehkan pelbagai ikhtiar meningkatkan darjat hidup rakyat dilaksanakan.

Katanya, kedudukan ekonomi negara berada di landasan kukuh dan meyakinkan. Ini kerana prestasi ekonomi negara bukan sahaja diakui dalam negara, malah turut mendapat pengiktirafan antarabangsa.

'Tiada wakil penganjur, KKM ketika serbuan polis'

Kota Bharu: Polis Kelantan menegaskan serbuan yang dilakukan di sebuah banglo terhadap perjumpaan LGBT bulan lalu berasaskan maklumat risikan dan bukti yang sah, tanpa sebarang niat diskriminasi.

Ketua Polis Kelantan, Datuk Mohd Yusoff Mamat, berkata ketika serbuan dilakukan, tiada wakil penganjur daripada badan bukan kerajaan (NGO) atau kakitangan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) di lokasi berkenaan.

Malah beliau berkata, tiada sebarang maklumat menunjukkan program berkenaan mendapat kelulusan atau pemantauan daripada mana-mana pihak berautoriti.

"Maklumat diterima oleh PDRM Kelantan mendapati satu perjumpaan dan pesta gay akan diadakan di Kota Bharu, Kelantan. Hasil risikan dan temu bual awam dijalankan Pasukan Task Force PDRM Kelantan, jemputan itu dilakukan melalui WhatsApp dalam kumpulan tertentu.

"Kandungan jemputan itu antara lain bertulis "Program Gathering Komuniti Majlis Malam Mesra Komuniti & Santai-Santai" dan acara untuk jemputan itu adalah "Chil-chil membawang dan makan-makan," katanya.

Mohd Yusoff berkata, hasil ri-

sikan polis juga mendapati kandungan jemputan itu tidak menyatakan pembabit atau penganjuran daripada mana-mana badan rasmi seperti NGO, Klinik Kesihatan atau KKM.

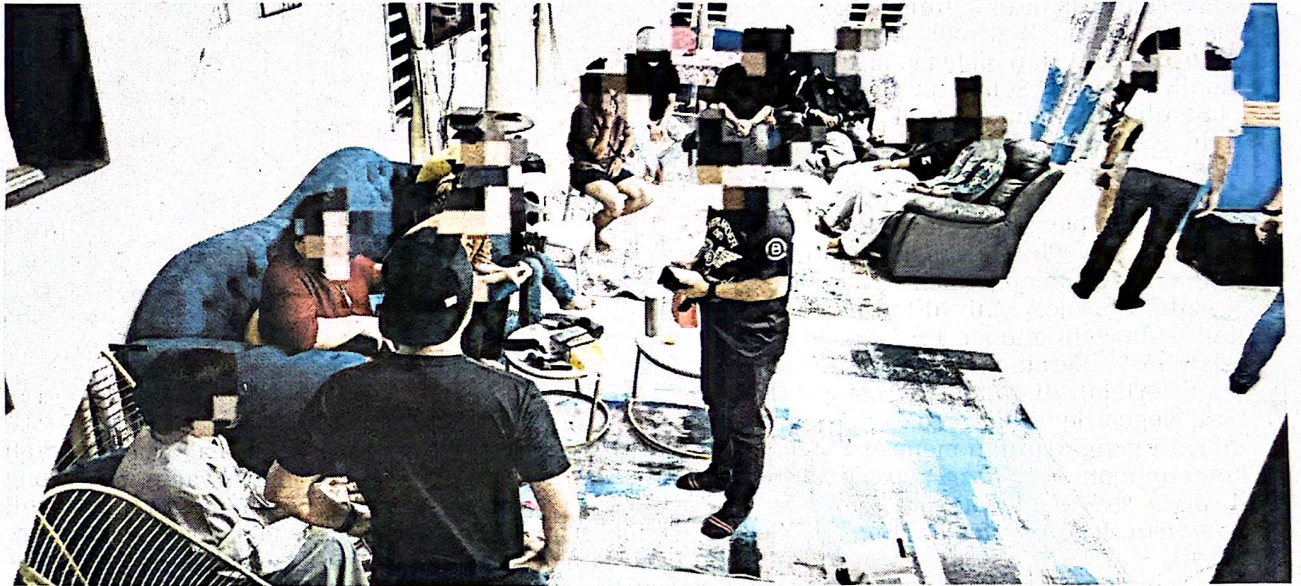
"Susulan itu pada hari kejadian, Pasukan Task Force memantau di kediaman berkenaan sejak jam 5 petang dan sekitar jam 8 malam kehadiran pengunjung meningkat lebih kurang 100 orang.

"Sekitar jam 11 malam, didapati majoriti pengunjung sudah meninggalkan lokasi terbabit. Pasukan serbuan sudah mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga dan hanya menjalankan tindakan sekitar jam 1 bagi memastikan operasi berjalan lancar tanpa risiko kepada keselamatan awam.

"Semasa serbuan dijalankan, pihak polis mendapati seramai 20 orang lelaki berada di premis berkenaan dan mereka mengaku merupakan komuniti gay. Polis juga menemui ratusan kondom dan beberapa kotak ubat HIV di dalam bilik premis terbabit.

"Hasil dokumentasi kita jalankan terhadap 20 lelaki dengan 18 daripadanya berasal dari Kelantan dan masing-masing satu dari Perak serta Terengganu," katanya.

Katanya, hasil pemeriksaan terhadap telefon bimbit semua



Anggota polis menjalankan pemeriksaan ketika serbuan dipercayai perjumpaan LGBT di Kota Bharu, bulan lalu.

(Foto ihsan polis)

mereka mendapati tiga daripadanya memiliki video lucah membabitkan hubungan sesama jenis.

"Sebahagian daripada mereka juga mengaku pernah membabitkan diri dalam aktiviti seks sejenis. Ketiga-tiga lelaki memiliki bahan lucah berkenaan sudah dituduh mengikut Seksyen 292 Kanun Keseksaan dan sudah mengaku bersalah.

"Tujuan utama PDRM (melakukan serbuan) adalah menjaga

ketenteraman awam dan nilai moral masyarakat.

"Polis berharap penjelasan ini dapat menepis kekeliruan serta spekulasi yang tular. Orang ramai dinasihatkan tidak menyebarkan maklumat tidak sah dan terus memberi kerjasama kepada pihak berkuasa demi keharmonian negeri ini," katanya.

Kelmarin media melaporkan, KKM mengesahkan program yang diserbu polis Kelantan bu-

lan lalu sebenarnya program kesedaran kesihatan berkaitan HIV.

Pengesahan itu dibuat menerusi jawapan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, di laman X rasminya sebagai respon kepada hantaran yang memintanya mempertahankan program kesedaran HIV itu.

Bagaimanapun, kementerian tidak mengulas mengenai operasi yang dijalankan oleh pihak polis.

Harian Metro m/s 4 Lokal 24/7/2025 (Khamis)

Kuala Lumpur: Ribuan pekerja kesihatan negara dalam keadaan gembira dan bersemangat untuk berkhidmat susulan pengumuman Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, semalam.

Perkara itu dikongsi Jurucakap Hartal Doktor Kontrak (HDK) Dr Muhammad Yassin.

Beliau berkata, mereka menyambut baik pengum

Pekerja kesihatan negara sambut baik pengumuman Perdana Menteri

muman 'luar biasa' Perdana Menteri berkenaan.

"Pengumuman ini sudah tentu akan memberi lebih semangat dan kegembiraan kepada ribuan para pekerja kesihatan bertaraf kontrak.

"Kami menyambut baik

pengumuman PMX," katanya kepada BH, di sini, semalam.

Dalam pengumuman khas yang disiarkan secara langsung di televisyen, Anwar mengumumkan lebih 4,000 jawatan untuk

doktor kerajaan termasuk pegawai perubatan lantikan kontrak, akan disediakan tahun ini.

Beliau menekankan keperluan mendesak terhadap doktor dalam sektor penjagaan kesihatan.

Bagi mempertingkatkan penyampaian perkhidmatan, Anwar mengesahkan seramai 4,352 doktor baharu termasuk yang berstatus kontrak, akan diambil bekerja pada tahun ini.

Anwar yang juga Menteri

Kewangan berkata, pertumbuhan ekonomi meyakinkan membolehkan pelbagai ikhtiar meningkatkan darjat hidup rakyat dilaksanakan.

Katanya, kedudukan ekonomi negara berada di landasan kukuh.

Ini kerana prestasi ekonomi negara bukan sahaja diakui dalam negara malah turut mendapat pengiktirafan antarabangsa.

The Sun M/S 4 National 24/7/2025 (Khamis)

Malacca health dept drafting proposal to ban vape sale

MALACCA: The Malacca Health Department is preparing a proposal to ban the manufacturing and sale of e-cigarettes or vape products in the state.

State Health, Human Resources and Unity Committee chairman Datuk Ngwe Hee Sem said the proposal will

be presented to the State Executive Council for a decision later this year.

"At this stage, the state government has yet to take a position on whether to support or reject the ban, as the matter is still under review," he said at the state legislative assembly sitting yesterday.

He was replying to Low Chee Leong (PH-Kota Laksamana), who asked about the state government's stance on the sale of e-cigarettes.

Ngwe said while e-cigarettes are often seen as a safer alternative to conventional smoking, their nicotine content still poses addiction risks and

health hazards, and are by no means 100% safe.

He said vape liquids contain various harmful heavy metals such as nickel, chromium and arsenic, which are all classified as Group 1 carcinogens by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

"They also contain cobalt, which is toxic to the lungs and cadmium, which can damage the kidneys and is also linked to cancer.

"These heavy metals have also been associated with mental health issues, including depression," he said.
- Bernama

Thesun M152 National 24/7/2025
(Dumars)

Vacancies at public healthcare facilities to be filled soon

PETALING JAYA: The government will expedite the filling of 4,352 positions at public healthcare facilities by the end of this year, with priority given to contract doctors, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said immediate steps are needed to strengthen the country's healthcare delivery.

"There have been complaints about critical vacancies, particularly involving doctors. So, we have decided that while services must improve, there is also a clear need to bring in new and contract doctors," he said during a televised address to the nation yesterday.

He said Malaysia's economic trajectory remains "strong and convincing", a sentiment reflected in both domestic indicators and positive global assessments.

"The ringgit's value reflects growing confidence, having strengthened by over 5% against the US dollar as of mid-year. The ringgit currently stands at RM4.23, placing it among the top five performing Asian currencies this year.

"GDP growth for the first quarter stood at 4.4%, and based on early estimates, the second quarter is expected to reach 4.5%.

"Malaysia climbed 11 spots to 23rd place in the International Institute for Management Development World Competitiveness Ranking 2025.

"Last year, we recorded the highest approved investments in history at RM384 billion, a 17% increase from 2023, and this figure is expected to rise further this year." – By **Qirana Nabilla Mohd Rashidi**

Launch of Sejahtera Madani initiative today

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will launch the Sejahtera Madani initiative today, reaffirming the government's commitment to eradicating hardcore poverty in Malaysia.

He said the initiative continues efforts to ensure sustained aid for low-income groups, with support from both the public and corporate sectors.

Anwar made the remarks during the Special Appreciation for Malaysians address yesterday.

"Ending hardcore poverty has been a goal of mine from the beginning. By the end of 2024, nearly 150,000 households who were in that category have seen their status improve," he said during the Special Appreciation for Malaysians address yesterday. – By

Qirana Nabilla Mohd Rashidi

15,000 pesakit tunggu giliran pembedahan

Oleh **MOHAMAD HAFIZ YUSOFF BAKRI** dan **FATIN NORIZATI MAT ISA**
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KUALA LUMPUR: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengakui tempoh menunggu yang panjang bagi pembedahan elektif di fasiliti kesihatan awam dengan hampir 15,000 pesakit masih berada dalam senarai menunggu di seluruh negara.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, tempoh purata pesakit menunggu giliran pembedahan sekitar tiga hingga 21 bulan.

Katannya, walaupun berdepan dengan cabaran itu, pembedahan kecemasan tetap diberikan keutamaan dan dilaksanakan segera demi menjamin keselamatan nyawa pesakit.

"Setakat ini, seramai 9,233 pesakit sedang menunggu pembedahan katarak di 56 hospital



DZULKEFLY AHMAD

KKM dengan purata tempoh menunggu selama tiga bulan.

"2,661 pesakit pula menunggu prosedur berkaitan batu karang seperti *percutaneous nephrolithotomy* dan *retrograde intrarenal surgery* dengan purata tempoh menunggu mencec-

ah 11 bulan di 13 hospital yang mempunyai pakar tetap," katanya dalam jawapan bertulis bagi menjawab soalan Yeo Bee Yin (PH-Puchong) yang meminta kementerian menyatakan senarai dan purata tempoh menunggu bagi pembedahan elektif di hospital kerajaan.

Menurut Dzulkefly, seramai 2,293 pesakit juga sedang menunggu pembedahan kardiotorasik utama termasuk *coronary artery bypass graft* dan pembedahan injap jantung dengan purata masa menunggu selama tujuh bulan.

"Bagi pembedahan kardiotorasik pediatrik, situasi lebih mencabar apabila sebanyak 603 kes elektif masih tertangguh dengan purata tempoh menunggu yang jauh lebih lama iaitu sehingga 21 bulan," jelasnya.

Mengulas usaha mengurangkan kelewatan pembedahan, Dzulkefly berkata, antara

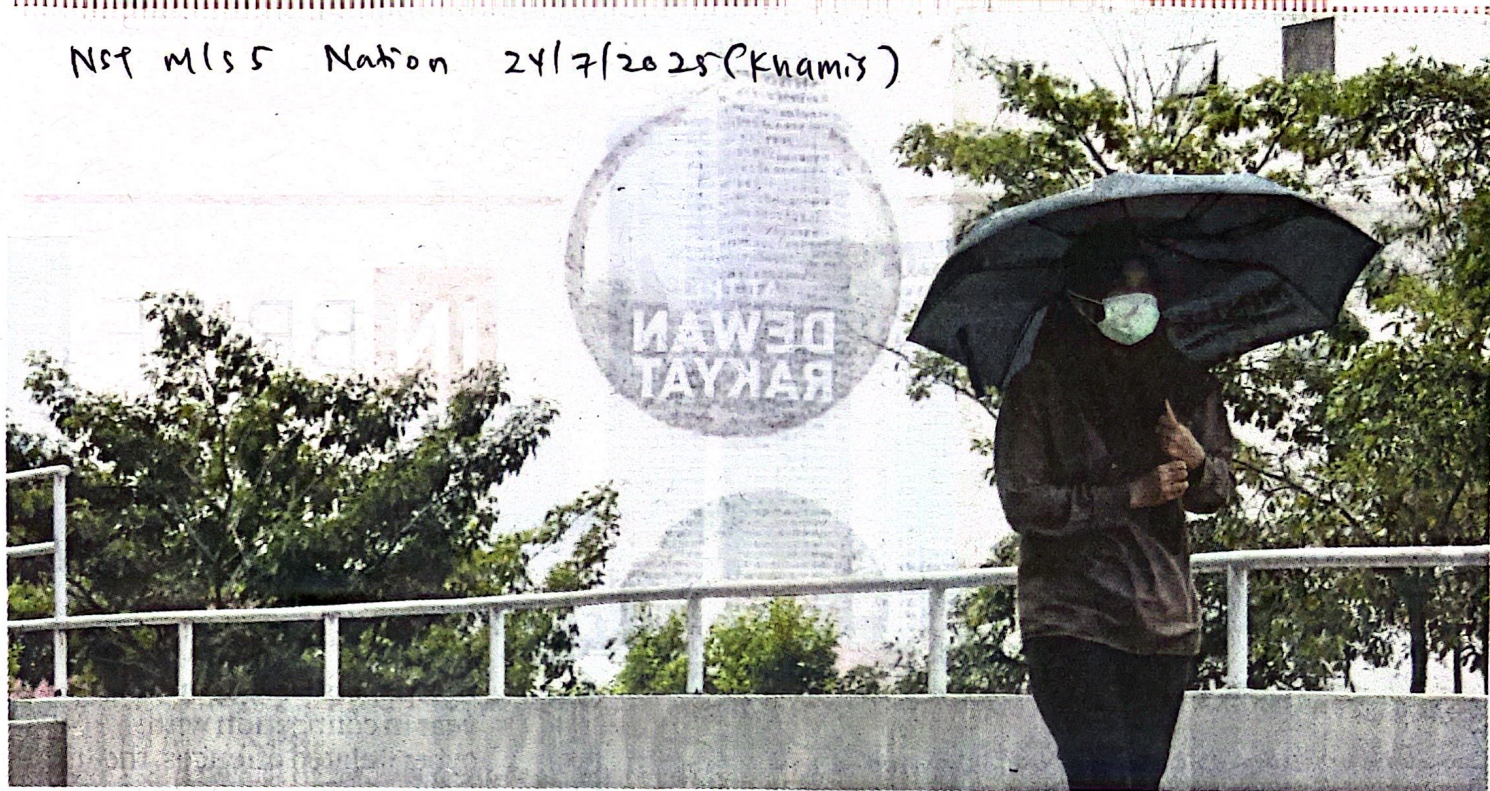
langkah diambil ialah memperluaskan konsep hospital kluster yang membolehkan perkhidmatan pakar dikongsi antara hospital dalam kluster sama.

"KKM juga menempatkan pakar bedah di hospital yang tidak mempunyai pakar tetap, bagi membolehkan perkhidmatan pembedahan dimulakan di hospital tersebut," ujarinya.

Selain itu, kementerian turut mengukuhkan kerjasama antara agensi dan sektor swasta bagi memperluas akses pembedahan.

"Contohnya adalah penubuhan Pusat Pembedahan Katarak MAIWP-Hospital Selayang hasil kerjasama dengan Majlis Agama Islam Wilayah Persekutuan.

"Kami juga melaksanakan Program Perkhidmatan Kesihatan Secara Out-Sourcing sebagai sebahagian usaha mempercepatkan proses rawatan bagi pesakit yang memerlukan pembedahan segera," katanya.



A woman in a face mask walking in Bangsar South amid the haze in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. NSTP PIC BY AMIRUDIN SAHIB

FIRE, HAZE RISKS

KING URGES VIGILANCE AMID DRY WEATHER

Sultan Ibrahim highlights health concerns for children, elderly

KALBANA PERIMBANAYAGAM
AND AMEEN HAZIZI
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HIS Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, has advised Malaysians to remain vigilant amid the ongoing dry weather, warning of increased risks of fires and haze.

Sultan Ibrahim said the situation could impact public health,

especially among children, senior citizens and those with respiratory conditions.

"The public should look after their health and monitor the Air Pollutant Index (API) from time to time," the king said on Facebook yesterday.

"Hot and dry conditions can cause fires to spread rapidly."

Sultan Ibrahim urged the authorities to intensify patrols and enforcement against open burning, which could further deteriorate the country's air quality.

Meanwhile, the transboundary haze from Sumatra, Indonesia, caused by open burning and peat fires, showed signs of improvement, with clear skies reported in most parts of Malaysia.

However, air quality in Cheras remained a concern.

Up to 3pm yesterday, Cheras recorded an unhealthy API of 113.

In contrast, 65 other locations that previously registered unhealthy API levels have improved to moderate readings. These include Johan Setia in Selangor with an API reading of 89 and Nilai in Negri Sembilan at 84.

According to the Environment Department's Air Pollutant Index Management System, other areas showing improvement up to 3pm yesterday included Port Dickson with an API reading of 95, Kuala Selangor at 88, Shah Alam at 88, Alor Gajah at 87, Batu Muda at 86 and Petaling Jaya at 85.

Locations such as Banting, Klang, Seremban, Putrajaya and Balok Baru Kuantan in Pahang have also returned to moderate API levels.