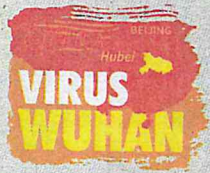


AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO  
 MUKA SURAT : 2  
 RUANGAN : LOKAL

# Enam lagi disah positif

Angka terbaharu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan Covid-19 sebanyak 99 kes



Oleh Hafidzul Hilmi  
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## Kuala Lumpur

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia mengesahkan enam lagi individu positif jangkitan Covid-19 setakat jam 12 tengah hari, semalam.

Ketua Pengarahnya Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, perkembangan itu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan individu positif Covid-19 adalah sebanyak 99 kes.

Beliau berkata, semua kes berkenaan dikesan dan diasingkan untuk rawatan selanjutnya.

"Kontak rapat bagi kes ini juga sedang dikenal pasti untuk siasatan dan pengambilan sampel selanjutnya. Semua kes baharu yang dilaporkan semalam terdiri daripada kontak rapat kluster kes ke-26.

"Aktiviti pengesanan kontak rapat masih dijalankan sehingga punca di mana jangkitan ini terjadi dapat dikenal pasti," katanya



IBU kota Milan tengang selepas penduduknya dikuarantin, semalam.

dalam satu kenyataan media, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, daripada jumlah keseluru-

han positif Covid-19, sebanyak dua kes dilaporkan memerlukan bantuan pernafasan dan dirawat di unit

rawatan rapi dan diberikan rawatan anti-viral.

"Bagi kes gelombang kedua yang dilaporkan ini



Semua kes baharu yang dilaporkan pada hari ini terdiri daripada kontak rapat kluster kes ke-26"

Dr Noor Hisham

(bermula kes ke-23 sehingga kes ke-99), hanya lima kes yang dilaporkan dari kalangan Pengesanan Kes Yang Disyaki (PUT) dan mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke luar negara.

"Manakala kes lain pula membabitkan kluster yang terdiri daripada kontak rapat dan mempunyai kaitan antara satu sama lain," katanya.

Menurutnya, KKM sudah menjalankan aktiviti pengawasan Covid-19 bagi mengesan kes sporadik dan kes tempatan di Malaysia melalui pesakit *influenza-like-illness* dan *severe acute respiratory infection* yang tiada kaitan dengan sejarah perjalanan ke negara yang terjejas atau kontak dengan kes positif Covid-19.

"Sehingga hari ini (semalam) sebanyak 567 sampel sudah diuji dan setakat ini tiada sampel dikesan positif jangkitan Covid-19.

"Berdasarkan maklumat semasa, buat masa ini tiada kes sporadik Covid-19 yang dikesan melalui aktiviti pengawasan ini," katanya.

## KKM kekalkan tempoh inkubasi

**Putrajaya:** Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) buat masa ini masih mengekalkan tempoh inkubasi Covid-19 selama 14 hari dan tidak bercadang untuk menambah tempoh berkenaan seperti yang disaran oleh pakar sebelum ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, tempoh yang dilakukan di negara ini adalah berdasarkan kepada kajian dan fakta oleh Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO).

## Rakyat Malaysia di Itali dihubungi

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kedutaan Malaysia di Rom, Itali sedang berhubung dengan rakyat Malaysia di negara itu susulan kemungkinan pelaksanaan perintah kuarantin, bagi mengekang penularan wabak koronavirus baharu (Covid-19).

Seramai 15 juta penduduk di sekitar ibu negara Itali, Milan dan bandar pelancongan Venice akan dikenakan perintah kuarantin untuk tempoh sebulan.

Sumber Kementerian Luar berkata, pihak kedutaan berusaha mengenal pasti semua rakyat Malaysia yang berada di Itali.

## Sekat kemasukan kapal persiaran

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengambil keputusan tidak membenarkan kemasukan kapal persiaran ke pelabuhan Malaysia termasuk Pelabuhan Klang serta-merta.

Keputusan itu dibuat hasil rundingan KKM bersama kementerian dan agensi kerajaan lain sebagai langkah berjaga-jaga berikutan penularan wabak Covid-19.

Ketua Pengarahnya Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, dengan perkembangan terbaharu menyaksikan gelombang kedua Covid-19 di negara ini dan seluruh dunia, pelbagai langkah diambil oleh pihak berkuasa Malaysia untuk mengekang penularan wabak itu.

"Kemasukan dan transit kapal persiaran, penumpang dan anak kapal memerlukan penyediaan sumber perubatan yang banyak di pelabuhan berkenaan bagi tujuan pemeriksaan dan rawatan.

"Dalam tempoh yang sukar ini, bantuan ubat-ubatan sangat penting diutamakan di hospital, apatah lagi untuk persediaan perubatan kecemasan dan melaksanakan langkah pencegahan.

"Keputusan diambil supaya kemasukan kapal persiaran ke Malaysia tidak dibenarkan sehingga keadaan keseluruhan bertambah baik dan penularan Covid-19 terkawal," katanya menerusi kenyataan dikeluarkan di Facebook beliau, semalam.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 12

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

12

ISIN, 9 MAC 2020

## Individu bergejala dinasihat tidak ke masjid

**Kuala Lumpur:** Individu bergejala seperti batuk, selesema dan demam serta khuatir dijangkiti COVID-19, dinasihatkan tidak menunaikan solat berjemaah di masjid.

Mufti Pahang, Datuk Seri Dr Abdul Rahman Osman, menjelaskan individu terbabit tidak wajib menunaikan solat fardu atau solat Jumaat di masjid, jika bimbang menjangkiti orang lain.

"Ada beberapa perkara boleh dipanggil uzur diizinkan syarak, yang membolehkan kita tidak mengerjakan solat berjemaah, termasuk solat Jumaat, antaranya ialah sakit atau berada dalam keadaan takut.

"Orang yang sakit, khususnya dijangkiti coronavirus tidak wajib ke masjid. Itu jelas.

"Takut pula ada pelbagai jenis, termasuk mereka yang takut menyebabkan orang lain dijangkiti penyakitnya, khususnya dalam situasi negara dilanda virus ketika ini. Keadaan ini dibolehkan syarak untuk tidak hadir solat jemaah, termasuk solat Jumaat," katanya kepada BH, semalam.

Terdahulu, pakar virologi, Prof Dr Szalay Abu Bakar membangkitkan kerisauan kemungkinan COVID-19 boleh tersebar luas jika individu dijangkiti, namun belum disahkan positif, berjemaah di masjid, seperti solat Jumaat dan majlis keagamaan.

Kebimbangan itu berdasarkan penularan coronavirus memabikan individu ke-26 dijangkiti COVID-19 di negara ini, yang mewujudkan kluster jangkitan dengan lebih 40 individu yang positif dikaitkan dengannya.

Sehubungan itu, Szalay menyarankan individu bergejala supaya menunaikan solat pada saf di belakang, atau diasingkan daripada jemaah lain.

Sementara itu, Mufti Kelantan, Datuk Mohamad Shukri Mohamad, menyarankan individu bergejala yang mahu solat berjemaah di masjid, melaksanakan ibadah itu sambil memaknai to-peng muka.

Katanya, perkara itu dibenarkan dan tidak membatalkan solat, selain dibenarkan syarak bagi menjaga dan mengawal daripada penularannya.

Katanya, mereka yang bergejala namun belum disahkan positif, tidak boleh diasingkan kerana sebarang hukum tidak boleh dibuat secara andai.

"Kalau yang sudah disahkan positif coronavirus, dia tak perlu pergi solat Jumaat atau solat fardu di masjid kerana kita tidak mahu wabak itu merebak.

"Namun, tidak boleh kita letak mereka yang bergejala dalam saf berasingan jika belum positif. Mereka yang disyaki juga akan dikuarantin," katanya.

## Nasional

Penularan COVID-19

# 20,000 rakyat Malaysia di China tak minta pulang

## Pendirian Kerajaan selari perkembangan terkini

Oleh Faris Fuad  
faris.fuad@bh.com.my

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kerajaan belum bercadang membawa pulang kira-kira 20,000 rakyat Malaysia dari China, khususnya di Hubei, susulan penularan COVID-19.

Duta Besar Malaysia ke China, Raja Datuk Nushirwan Zainal Abidin, berkata pendirian kerajaan itu selari perkembangan kerajaannya, termasuk laporan bahawa tiada rakyat Malaysia di China yang disahkan positif jangkitan virus berkenaan.

"Kita juga tidak mendapat permintaan daripada rakyat Malaysia di sana (China) untuk dibawa pulang.

"Setakat ini, semua terkawal. Kami ada membuat kumpulan dalam laman sembang untuk sentiasa berkomunikasi, selain mendapatkan maklumat berkaitan bantuan dan keperluan mereka di sana," katanya pada BH, semalam.

Pada 26 Februari lalu, pesawat khas misi kedua membawa pulang rakyat Malaysia, pasangan dan anak mereka dari Wuhan, China, tiba di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA), pada jam 6.45 pagi.

Seramai 66 orang membabitkan 46 rakyat Malaysia dan 20 tanggungan (pasangan/anak) mereka yang bukan warganegara dibawa pulang melalui penerbangan khas.

Pada 4 Februari lalu, Kerajaan



**Kami ada buat kumpulan dalam laman sembang untuk sentiasa berkomunikasi.**

Nushirwan Zainal Abidin,  
Duta Besar Malaysia ke China

Malaysia membawa pulang 107 rakyat negara ini yang terkandas di wilayah Hubei melalui misi pertama.

Sementara itu, Ketua Penolong Pengarah Kanan Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA), Farhan Sufyan Borhan, berkata pihaknya juga tidak berhasrat mengadakan misi ketiga bagi membawa pulang rakyat Malaysia dari China.

"Setakat ini, tiada keperluan dan permintaan daripada mana-mana pihak untuk NADMA mengadakan misi itu.

"Perkara ini juga tidak berbangkit dalam mesyuarat antara pihak NADMA dengan KSN (Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Datuk Seri Mohd Zuki Ali) pada Jumaat lalu.

"Namun, kami sentiasa berhubung dengan agensi dan pihak berkuasa berkaitan bagi mengetahui situasi semasa," katanya.

## Tempoh inkubasi kekal 14 hari

**Putrajaya:** Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengekalkan tempoh inkubasi COVID-19 selama 14 hari, buat masa ini dan tiada cadangan untuk melanjutkannya seperti disarankan oleh pakar.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata tempoh yang dilaksanakan di negara ini adalah berdasarkan kajian dan fakta oleh Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO).

Beliau berkata, hanya WHO boleh menentukan tempoh inkubasi dan setakat ini, ia mengekalkan tempoh 14 hari bagi individu dijangkiti COVID-19.

"KKM bukan WHO (untuk menentukan tempoh inkubasi), KKM mengikut WHO. Kita berdasarkan fakta dan kajian. Setakat ini, mengikut kajian dan panduan oleh WHO ialah tempoh 14 hari," katanya ketika dihubungi BH, semalam.

Media antarabangsa melaporkan data terbaru berdasarkan penyelidikan membabitkan lebih 1,000 pesakit COVID-19, mendapati tempoh inkubasi virus itu boleh mencecah 24 hari dan bukan 14 hari seperti yang dipercayai sebelum ini.

Kajian oleh sekurang-kurangnya 36 penyelidik dari hospital dan institusi perubatan di China itu mendapati kurang separuh daripada mangsa terbabit menunjukkan simptom dijangkiti virus berkenaan apabila kali pertama bertemu doktor.



Orang ramai dinasihat meningkatkan tahap kebersihan bagi mengekang penularan COVID-19. (Foto hiasan)

Sementara itu, enam kes baharu COVID-19 dilaporkan, setakat tengah hari semalam, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif positif virus berkenaan yang memasuki gelombang kedua mencecah 99 kes.

Dr Noor Hisham dalam satu kenyataan memaklumkan, semua kes baharu itu dikesan melalui kontak rapat bagi kluster kes ke-26.

"Semua kes ini dikesan ketika aktiviti pengesanan kontak dan dimasukkan ke hospital bagi isolasi serta rawatan lanjut.

"Aktiviti pengesanan kontak rapat masih dijalankan sehingga punca di mana jangkitan ini terjadi dapat dikenal pasti.

"Pertambahan enam kes baharu ini menjadikan jumlah kumulatif positif COVID-19 di Malaysia ialah 99 kes.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 18 kes

dikesan dalam kalangan pesakit bawah pemantauan (PUI), kontak rapat (79) dan dua lagi daripada Misi Bantuan Kemanusiaan. Dua kes dilapor memeritukan bantuan pernafasan dan dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi. Kes ini juga diterbitkan rawatan antiviral," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, daripada kes dilaporkan positif dalam gelombang kedua bermula kes ke-23 hingga kes ke-99, hanya lima dilaporkan dalam kalangan PUI dan mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke luar negara.

"Kes lain pula membabitkan kluster yang terdiri daripada kontak rapat dan mempunyai kaitan antara satu sama lain.

"KKM juga sudah menjalankan surveilan COVID-19 bagi mengesan kes sporadik dan kes tempatan di Malaysia melalui pe-

sakit influenza-like-illness (ILI) dan severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) yang tiada kaitan dengan sejarah perjalanan ke negara terjejas atau kontak dengan kes positif COVID-19.

"Hingga 8 Mac 2020, sebanyak 567 sampel diuji dan setakat ini, tiada sampel dikesan positif jangkitan COVID-19. Berdasarkan maklumat semasa, buat masa ini, tiada kes sporadik COVID-19 dikesan melalui aktiviti surveilan ini," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan sama, Dr Noor Hisham turut memaklumkan individu bagi kes ke-41 sudah pulih sepenuhnya.

"Kes ke-41 disahkan positif COVID-19 sebelum ini sudah pulih dan dibenarkan keluar daripada wad Hospital Kuala Lumpur. Ini menjadikan 24 kes sudah pulih sepenuhnya," katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES  
 MUKA SURAT : 4  
 RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

4

NEWS / Nation



COVID-19

# CASES RISE, SO DOES HATE

Health Ministry advises people not to victimise patients

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**T**HE second wave of Covid-19 infections, which saw a spike in the number of cases, has led to increased fear and panic among the public, giving rise to "unjustified hate" and stigmatisation of former Covid-19 patients.

In the case of Patient 26 — later revealed to be UDA Holdings Bhd chairman Datuk Hisham Hamdan — Netizens were quick to lash out, citing him as the source of the spread of the disease.

The Health Ministry said Patient 26 was not the index case and that it was hunting for "patient zero".

The backlash has taken a toll on patients, former patients and their next of kin.

It was learnt that even children who had close contact with Covid-19 cases but tested nega-

tive were not allowed to attend school, and spouses had been prohibited from workplaces.

People had cited a "lack of transparency" on the authorities' part, saying they did not name the places where the patients lived, worked or visited, as a precautionary measure.

The ministry shares the age, gender, nationality and travel history of confirmed cases.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, however, advised the public against victimising patients and those suspected to be infected.

He advised against the labelling of locations or premises as "Covid-19 sites".

The ministry, he said, would continue disinfecting and cleaning such premises, therefore, the chances of the public contracting the virus are "very low".

"Yes, the public wants to know the details of the person (tested positive for Covid-19), such as who they are, where they work and live. But it is against our medical act and professional conduct

to release such information. We must safeguard patients' confidentiality.

"More importantly, we should not victimise the patients and stigmatise the facilities," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Dr Noor Hisham advised the public to seek information from credible sources before sharing it on social media.

As World Health Organisation director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had said: "This is the time for facts, not fear; for science, not rumours. This is the time for solidarity,

not stigma".

Despite this, calls to reveal patients' location flooded the ministry's Facebook page each time an update was posted.

One of the posts read: "We have the right to know which area or location, so we can be prepared."

Another read: "Please provide details of where the patients have travelled" and "Why are you only updating the statistics but not revealing the locations?"

Tony, a spokesman for the 'Wuhan Coronavirus Malaysia'

Facebook page that had some 10,000 followers, claimed that the information provided by the ministry was vague and not useful.

This, he said had fuelled speculation and rumours.

He called on the hospitals involved to provide information about Covid-19 cases and issue updates to the public.

He said the authorities should punish those who gave false information of their travel history, or those who broke quarantine when they tested positive for Covid-19.

"A text and mobile web-based software should be established so that those under home quarantine can be monitored. We are also not aggressive on travel restrictions. Singapore has long closed its borders to visitors from high-risk countries."

The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission had warned the public not to spread fake news on Covid-19 that might cause panic and disrupt public order. People are advised to refer to the ministry's social media accounts and website or [Sebenarnya.my](http://Sebenarnya.my) portal.

Up to yesterday, 102,198 Covid-19 cases were recorded in 97 countries with 3,491 deaths. Malaysia has 99 cases.



Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah



A woman wearing a face mask waiting for a flight at Kuala Lumpur International Airport on Saturday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

## Ministry has legal right to protect patients' info

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Health Ministry has a legal right to protect a patient's confidentiality, such as his name, address and other personal details, medical experts said.

This is provided for under the Medical Act 1971 and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Act 1988.

Malaysian Medical Association president Dr N. Ganabaskaran said personal details and private information regarding patients' families or home addresses should not be disclosed to prevent mass panic.

Commending the Health Ministry for its "excellent job on contact tracing", he said the ministry had been transparent in disclosing information to the public.

"This is a public health issue

and we should have faith in our experts doing the job on the ground. The ministry has been providing sufficient and updated

information on Covid-19."

On the use of the term "super-spreader" — a patient who infects more people than the usual number — Dr Ganabaskaran said it was a terminology widely used in public health.

However, he said, this should not be sensationalised but focus, instead, should be on promoting awareness of Covid-19.

He said it was through awareness and education only that fear and the stigma attached to patients, former patients and suspected cases, could be addressed.

"There will be less fear and pan-

ic if people are well informed. The spread of fake news can be damaging. Many Malaysians aren't aware of how to verify information or check fake news. The media plays an important role in educating the public to identify fake news and misinformation."

Dr Ganabaskaran said the police and MCMC would need to work with the ministry in addressing fake news and misinformation, while the media should continue to highlight the guidelines issued by the ministry on Persons Under Investigation (PUI), close contacts and home quarantine.

Malaysian Public Health Medicine Specialist Association president Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar, however, said while patient confidentiality was paramount, the public had the right to information that is critical to the community and country.

"Some of the info may generate negative feedback, but with clear

explanation, people will be more informed. At the same time, we can educate and better our citizens' mentality.

"I would prefer it if the affected person came out to tell his side of the story and apologise. Just like Steve Walsh (described as Briton's superspreader) and (Datuk) Hisham Hamdan (Malaysia's 26th patient) did.

"There were some negative responses initially, but finally, the community accepted and congratulated him," he told the NST. Dr Zainal said it could be "very difficult to keep sensitive information under lock and key" as it would leak out.

He called on the ministry to be transparent and conduct better risk communication and public engagement to increase public understanding of Covid-19.

He shared an experience in his neighbourhood, where the people and member of parliament assisted the family of a PUI.

"They bought food and gro-

ceries and left them at the gate for the family. I did not see any negative action from the neighbourhood.

"We have to understand community perception and psychology. Everybody is scared, but we must keep the lines of communication open."

Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Lam Sai Kit, a senior fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, said a patient's details should be protected unless he wishes to come out in the open.

"Education and the dissemination of accurate information are important in the fight against any emerging infectious disease," he said.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION / NEWS

Nation / NEWS | 5

## MTUC: Get EPF members to apply for lower cuts

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) should require members to apply for lower deductions instead of making them apply to maintain the 11 per cent.

Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) secretary-general J. Solomon said under the Covid-19 Stimulus Package, those who did not fill up the form to maintain their deductions would automatically have their monthly EPF contributions reduced by four per cent beginning next month.

"This is a misleading and deceiving tactic to compel workers to commit to the reduction.

"This amount will be channelled back as 'extra' salary to the workers to help them mitigate the economic impact of the Covid-19 outbreak.

"However, this means that workers who receive the 'extra' cash will suffer further reductions in their meagre EPF savings. To make matters worse, EPF will only pay interest on the remaining seven per cent of the employees' contribution, instead of the normal 11 per cent," he said yesterday.

In a March 5 statement, EPF said employees wishing to maintain their contribution at 11 per cent must complete the Borang KWSP 17A (Khas 2020) and submit it to EPF via their employers.

Solomon said while MTUC did not begrudge the government for allowing workers to reduce their monthly contributions to the retirement fund to deal with the

downturn, the retirement fund must not be seen as encouraging workers to take up the option "unwittingly".

"Workers are generally not inclined to savings due to unaffordable living conditions and, therefore, the mandatory savings through EPF are obviously useful in the long run."

He said the congress feared that workers who did not fill up the required forms would be deemed as agreeing to have their contributions reduced, even when it was against their wishes.

"As such, MTUC calls on the EPF management to compel only those who agree to have their EPF contributions reduced by four per cent to fill up the said forms.

"All employees who did not fill up the forms must be regarded as wanting the status quo, which is to keep their employee contributions at 11 per cent."

He said while this extra cash was important to low-wage earners, it should not be at the expense of their retirement funds.

"It must be noted that the four per cent credited into the worker's account will attract tax for those who are taxable," he added.

EPF reported that 50 per cent of its members had only an average of RM50,000 in savings by the time they reach retirement age. It said this amount would roughly last for five years only.

As such, Solomon said, the four per cent reduction every month in EPF member's contributions, even for one year, would worsen their situation in the future.



J. Solomon

"The government should inject funds in the form of family Cola (Cost of Living Adjustments) and loans at lower interest rates for people in the bottom 40 (B40) and middle 40 (M40) income groups.

"Such loan facilities are provided for the business community, so why can't it be extended to workers?"

Solomon said MTUC did not encourage any reduction in EPF members' contributions to stimulate the economy to ease the effects of Covid-19.

"MTUC recognises that many workers may welcome extra cash. However, the government and EPF administrators have a fiduciary duty to protect the members' interest and not seek quick solutions that inflict more damage on the future of the workers and their families."

## Embassy in Rome reaching out to Malaysians

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Malaysian embassy in Rome is reaching out to Malaysians residing in Italy, following its lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19.

A Foreign Ministry source yesterday said efforts to locate Malaysians in Italy were likely ongoing.

"The embassy has a coordinator in every area to identify Malaysians there," the source said.

The number of Malaysians in Italy has yet to be determined.

Earlier, it was reported that Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte had signed a decree to put millions of people in the Lombardy region and 14 other provinces under lockdown.

The move came after a spike of 1,247 Covid-19 cases yesterday, with the country recording 5,883 cases and 233 deaths.

On the home front, the Health Ministry had advised Malaysians to postpone travel to Lombardy, Veneto and Emilia-Romagna in



Raja Datuk Nushirwan Zainal Abidin

Italy; Hokkaido in Japan; and, Teheran, Qom and Gilan in Iran.

In another development, Malaysian ambassador to China Raja Datuk Nushirwan Zainal Abidin said the government had no plans to bring back 20,000 Malaysians from China, especially in Hubei province.

He said the government's stance was in line with recent de-

velopments, including no reports of Malaysians in China testing positive for Covid-19.

"There are no requests from Malaysians there to be brought home. Everything is under control.

"We have set up a WeChat group to keep in touch and obtain information on any help needed," he told *Berita Harian* yesterday.

On Feb 26, a special flight in the second evacuation of 66 Malaysian citizens and their non-citizen spouses and children from Wuhan arrived at Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

On the first evacuation on Feb 4, the government brought back 107 Malaysians from Hubei.

National Disaster Management Agency senior deputy director Farhan Sufyan Borhan said the agency had no plans to launch a third mission.

"There has been no need for it or request from any party to carry out the mission."



The deserted Via Manzoni in central Milan, after millions of people are placed under quarantine in northern Italy yesterday. AFP PIC

AKHBAR : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

## Six new cases in the country, bringing total to 99

**PETALING JAYA:** Another six new Covid-19 cases related to patient 26 have been identified, bringing the number of cases in the country to 99.

Health Director-General Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said all the patients have been isolated and are receiving treatment.

"The ministry is still carrying out contact tracing to determine the source of the infection," he said.

Noor Hisham said of the 99 cases, 18 cases were detected from Patient-Under-Investigation (PUI) 79's close contact cases and two from the Humanitarian Mission. He said two cases required breathing aid.

Malaysia now has the second highest number of Covid-19 in Southeast Asia while Singapore has the highest, with 138 reported cases.

Noor Hisham said from the second wave of patients, only five were PUI and had travelled abroad.

He said the rest of the patients were close contacts who had links with one another.

"The ministry is also tracing local sporadic cases among patients with influenza-like-illnesses and severe acute respiratory infection who may not have any recent history of travelling abroad or any contact with infected Covid-19 patients.

"We have collected 567 samples up until March 8, and none of them tested positive for Covid-19."

Noor Hisham said 24 people have recovered from the disease so far, following the recovery of case 41. — by **Rajvinder Singh**



**PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE ...** A group of Taiwanese tourists don face masks during their visit to Dataran Merdeka as a safety precaution in light of the Covid-19 outbreak. The public are advised to put on face masks when visiting public areas to avoid contracting the virus. — **BERNAMAPIX**

## Virus scare at station after cop quarantined

BY **CHARLES RAMENDRAN**  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The coronavirus (Covid-19) scare has hit the police force, after a corporal who was exposed to an infected patient was ordered to be quarantined.

It is learnt that the corporal, attached to the police CID forensics laboratory, had come in contact with an employee of UDA Corp, who was confirmed to have contracted the virus.

Sources said preliminary tests on the corporal turned out negative

for the virus.

A few days earlier, the corporal had met the UDA employee, who is his close friend, and five others for supper at a restaurant in Taman Cheras Perdana where they spent several hours together.

Two days later, after UDA Holdings Bhd chairman Datuk Hisham Hamdan tested positive for the virus, the corporal's 30-year-old friend, who is an administrative staff of the company, underwent tests and was found to be infected with the virus.

The Health Ministry contacted

those who had come in contact with the man.

On Thursday, the corporal, who is a bachelor and lives with his mother, underwent tests for Covid-19 and was cleared of the virus.

However, as a precautionary measure, he was ordered to remain in self-quarantine at his home in Cheras for the next two weeks.

It is learnt that police top brass have ordered other personnel who had come in contact with the corporal to be identified and advised to be on the lookout for symptoms of the deadly flu.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : NATION

Nation 9

## Six more Covid-19 cases bring total to 99

**PETALING JAYA:** Six more Covid-19 cases were recorded, bringing the total number to 99, says the Health Ministry.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said all the new patients yesterday comprised close contacts of the cluster linked to Case 26.

"We identified all the new cases through contact tracing and they have been admitted to hospital for isolation and further treatment," he said, adding the ministry would continue with contact tracing to identify the source of the infection.

Out of a total 99 Covid-19 cases in Malaysia, two patients are being treated at the intensive care unit as they required respiratory aid.

They are also being given anti-viral treatments.

"Out of those 99 cases, 18 cases were detected among patients-under-observation (PUI), 79 were infected through close contact with an infected person and two others were infected during a humanitarian aid mission to combat the effects of the disease," Dr Noor Hisham said.

He added that in the second wave, only five cases reported were among PUIs and had travelled abroad.

The rest of the patients were close contacts who had links with one another.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN  
MUKA SURAT : 10  
RUANGAN : ANCAMAN COVID-19

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ANCAMAN COVID-19

ISIN 9 MAC 2020 • SINAR HARIAN

## Enam kes baharu direkodkan

Menjadikan keseluruhan sebanyak 99 kes setakat tengah hari semalam

Oleh NURUL HUDA HUSAIN

PUTRAJAYA

Jumlah mangsa yang positif jangkitan koronavirus (Covid-19) di Malaysia meningkat kepada 99 kes dengan penambahan sebanyak enam kes baharu direkodkan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) setakat jam 12 tengah hari semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdulh berkata, semua kes berkenaan telah dikesan dan diasingkan untuk rawatan selanjutnya.

Menurutnya, semua kes baharu yang dilaporkan itu terdiri daripada kontak-kontak rapat kluster kes ke-26.

"Daripada jumlah tersebut, sebanyak 18 kes dikesan dalam



Pemakaian topeng muka oleh orang ramai dilihat sudah menjadi kebiasaan sebagai langkah pencegahan susulan penularan jangkitan Covid-19.

kalangan *Patient-Under-Investigation* (PUI) jangkitan Covid-19, sebanyak 79 kes dalam kalangan kontak rapat dan dua lagi kes daripada Misi Bantuan kemanusiaan.

"Daripada jumlah itu juga, sebanyak dua kes telah dilaporkan memerlukan bantuan pernafasan dan dirawat di unit rawatan rapi. Kes-kes ini juga telah diberikan rawatan antiviral," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, kes-kes bagi gelombang kedua yang dilaporkan bermula daripada kes ke-23 sehingga kes ke-99, hanya lima kes yang dilaporkan

dalam kalangan PUI dan mempunyai sejarah perjalanan ke luar negara.

Menurutnya, kes-kes lain pula melibatkan kluster yang terdiri daripada kontak-kontak rapat dan mempunyai kaitan antara sama lain.

Sementara itu, dalam perkembangan yang sama, beliau berkata, kes ke-41 yang disahkan positif Covid-19 sebelum ini telah pulih dan dibenarkan discaj dari wad Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL).

"Secara keseluruhannya sebanyak 24 kes telah pulih sepenuhnya dan discaj setakat ini," katanya.

## PPj nafi dakwaan Putrajaya dilanda Covid-19

**PUTRAJAYA** - Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPj) semalam menafikan audio yang tular dalam media sosial yang mendakwa Putrajaya kini dilanda jangkitan koronavirus (Covid-19).

Dalam kenyataan rasminya di Facebook, PPj menasihati orang awam agar tidak terpedaya dengan laporan audio berdurasi 44 saat itu yang ditularkan melalui WhatsApp sejak kelmarin.

"Keadaan seperti biasa di Putrajaya," menurut kenyataan itu.

Jelasnya, dakwaan mengatakan Putrajaya telah dilanda Covid-19 dan Hospital Putrajaya sesak serta staf-staf dijangkiti dan disyaki dijangkiti tidak menggambarkan situasi sebenar di Putrajaya, malah dikhuatiri akan menimbulkan panik.

"Keadaan di Putrajaya seperti biasa dan orang ramai dinasihatkan untuk mengamalkan langkah berjaga-jaga sebagaimana yang disarankan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan.

"Orang awam dinasihatkan untuk mengambil sikap bertanggungjawab dengan tidak menyebarkan maklumat-maklumat yang tidak sah," menurut kenyataan itu lagi. - *Bernama*

## MCPG gesa mansuh harga siling topeng muka

**GEORGETOWN** - Persatuan Farmasi Komuniti Malaysia (MCPG) menggesa Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna (KPDNHEP) untuk memansuhkan sementara harga siling topeng muka serta melarang pengeksportan barangan itu dari Malaysia.

Presiden MCPG, Lovy Beh berkata, permintaan itu bagi memastikan terdapat bekalan topeng muka yang mencukupi di Malaysia ketika penularan jangkitan koronavirus (Covid-19).

"Berikutan jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia, penjualan topeng muka meningkat tiga kali menyebabkan kekurangan bekalan, selain pengeluaran mengeksport produk ini pada harga yang tinggi," dakwanya pada sidang media di sini semalam. - *Bernama*



DR NOOR HISHAM

## Wajib jalani pemeriksaan kesihatan

**ARAU** - Pekerja asing yang ingin bekerja di Malaysia wajib menjalani pemeriksaan kesihatan dan disahkan bebas daripada jangkitan koronavirus (Covid-19) sebelum dibenarkan bekerja.

Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Sumber Manusia, Datuk Amir Omar bagaimanapun berkata, keputusan sama ada mahu menyekat pengambilan pekerja asing terletak di bawah bidang kuasa Kementerian Dalam Negeri (KDN).

"Ada satu jawatankuasa khas yang dipengerusikan oleh Ketua Setiausaha Negara (KSN) yang akan bermesyuarat dari masa ke masa untuk melihat sejauh mana tindakan secara komprehensif yang perlu diambil.

"Saringan kesihatan ini sebenarnya telah dijalankan sejak dahulu lagi, jadi kita mahu pekerja warga asing yang bekerja di dalam negara bebas daripada sebarang penyakit yang mesti dijalankan oleh majikan," katanya kepada media selepas perasmian program Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan di Sektor Pertanian Peringkat Negeri Perlis 2020 di Nat Pokok Getah, Pau di sini semalam. - *Bernama*



AMIR

## Malaysia larang kapal persiaran singgah pelabuhan

**KUALA LUMPUR** - Malaysia tidak membenarkan kapal persiaran berlabuh di pelabuhan negara ini berkuat kuasa serta-merta susulan wabak koronavirus (Covid-19) sehingga situasi bertambah baik dan penularan jangkitan virus dapat dikawal.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdulh berkata, berikutan kemunculan gelombang kedua kes Covid-19 di Malaysia baru-baru ini dan seluruh dunia, pelbagai langkah telah diambil pihak berkuasa Malaysia bagi menyekat penularan dalam negara dan melindungi kesihatan awam.

Menurutnya, kemasukan dan persinggahan kapal persiaran, penumpang serta anak kapal memerlukan penyediaan sumber perubahan yang banyak



Seramak sejuta pelancong yang datang ke Pulau Pinang melalui pintu masuk pelabuhan Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal sepanjang tahun lalu.

di pelabuhan bagi tujuan saringan dan rawatan.

"Dalam tempoh yang sukar ini, adalah penting lebih banyak sumber perubahan memberi tumpuan kepada hospital-hospital yang berdepan kecemasan perubatan dan melaksanakan

langkah-langkah pencegahan.

"Oleh itu, Kementerian Kesihatan bersama kementerian dan agensi yang lain mengambil keputusan tidak membenarkan kemasukan kapal persiaran ke pelabuhan Malaysia," katanya dalam Facebooknya semalam. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 24

RUANGAN : NEGERI / MELAKA & N. SEMBILAN

## Tiada kes Covid-19 dirawat di Hospital Jasin

**MELAKA** - Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Melaka menafikan terdapat satu kes koronavirus (Covid-19) dipindahkan ke Hospital Jasin dekat sini bagi mendapatkan rawatan seperti yang tular di media sosial.

Pengarahnya, Dr Ismail Ali berkata, berita yang tular melalui aplikasi WhatsApp itu tidak benar kerana tiada kes positif Covid-19 dilaporkan di negeri ini.

“Jabatan Kesihatan meminta semua lapisan masyarakat supaya sentiasa berhati-hati dan tidak menular berita tidak

### ANCAMAN COVID-19

benar yang boleh menimbulkan kebimbangan dalam masyarakat,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, jabatan itu sentiasa memastikan semua langkah kawalan dan pencegahan penyakit mematuhi prosedur tetap operasi yang telah digariskan.

Orang ramai boleh mendapatkan maklumat sahih dengan menghubungi Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC) di talian **03-88810200/03-88810600/03-88810700**.

- Bernama