

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : COVID-19

Kes Covid-19 turun

Catat 6,069 kes kelmarin berbanding 7,140 kes pada Isnin lalu

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Kes positif harian Covid-19 negara mencatatkan penurunan apabila 6,069 kes direkodkan kelmarin berbanding 7,140 kes pada Isnin lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, perkembangan terbaharu itu menjadikan 4,402,234 kes kumulatif dijangkiti virus berkenaan dengan kes sembuh dilaporkan ialah 10,619 kes.

Katanya, daripada jumlah kes baharu itu sebanyak 5,959 kes membabitkan penularan tempatan manakala 110 kes import lagi mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara.

"Daripada jumlah kes baharu itu, jangkitan tertinggi membabitkan kategori dua iaitu 3,426 kes diikuti kategori satu (2,598 kes), kategori tiga (21 kes), kategori lima (14 kes) manakala 10 kes lagi dari kategori empat.

"Daripada 45 kes Covid-19 kategori tiga hingga lima yang baharu dilaporkan semalam,

"Jangkitan tertinggi membabitkan kategori dua iaitu 3,426 kes"
Dr Noor Hisham

sembilan kes tidak divaksinasi atau belum lengkap divaksinasi, 18 kes menerima dua dos vaksin, tetapi belum menerima dos penggalak, 18 kes menerima dos penggalak, 21 kes berumur 60 tahun dan ke atas serta 26 kes mempunyai komorbid," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Beliau berkata, sebanyak 241 kes dimasukkan ke hospital dengan kes yang me-

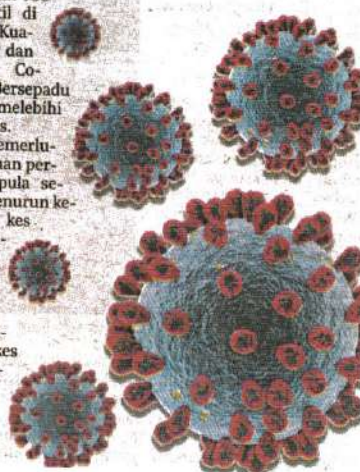
merlukan rawatan di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) membabitkan 97 kes (59 kes disyaki, kemungkinan dan kes dalam siasatan).

"Tiada negeri menunjukkan peratusan pengisian katil kes kritikal atau ICU, katil bukan ICU, serta katil di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19 Bersepadu (PKRC) melebihi 50 peratus.

"Kes memerlukan bantuan pernafasan pula semakin menurun kepada 64 kes (36 kes disahkan Covid-19, 28 kes disyaki, kemungkinan dan kes dalam siasatan) dengan peratusan peng-

naan ventilator lapan peratus," katanya.

Katanya, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) turut mengesan lima kluster baharu semalam menjadikan 109 kluster masih aktif serta 6,995 kumulatif kluster.



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Khairy ulangi gesaan agar RUU larangan merokok diluluskan

KUALA LUMPUR - Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar sekali lagi mengulangi gesaan agar rang undang-undang larangan merokok terhadap golongan belia diluluskan apabila ia dibentangkan di Dewan Rakyat pada Julai ini.

Khairy menerusi ciapan di laman Twitter pada Rabu berkata, undang-undang baharu itu akan menjadi pengakhiran kepada aktiviti merokok dalam kalangan generasi belia.

"Mereka yang lahir selepas tahun 2005 tidak akan dibenarkan sama sekali membeli produk tembakau. Ya, penguatkuasaan akan menjadi satu isu dan kami akan berusaha keras dalam hal ini. Bagaimanapun, marilah kita menutup ruang untuk golongan belia merokok buat selama-lamanya," kata beliau.

Ia turut disertakan dengan ciapan semula hantaran oleh pertubuhan berita tempatan berhubung rang undang-undang larangan merokok yang melaporkan bahawa tinjauan sebuah badan bukan kerajaan berkaitan kawalan tembakau menunjukkan dasar itu disokong oleh 95 peratus responden muda berumur 24 tahun ke bawah dan 89 peratus



KHAIRY

Mereka yang lahir selepas tahun 2005 tidak akan dibenarkan sama sekali membeli produk tembakau. Ya, penguatkuasaan akan menjadi satu isu dan kami akan berusaha keras dalam hal ini."

perokok serta pengevap.

Pada Mac lepas, Khairy berkata, undang-undang baharu untuk melarang ak-

tiviti merokok dan pemilikan sebarang produk tembakau, termasuk rokok elektronik (mengevap), bagi mereka yang lahir selepas 2005, akan dibentangkan di Dewan Rakyat pada Julai ini.

Sebelum itu, Khairy mengumumkan pada 17 Februari lepas bahawa pengenalan akta tersebut bertujuan mengurangkan keterdedahan generasi akan datang terhadap rokok dan produk tembakau kerana pengambilannya adalah faktor utama kejadian kanser serta menyumbang 22 peratus kematian akibat penyakit sama. - *Bernama*

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 10

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Dos penggalak kedua masih penting

PUTRAJAYA: Pengambilan dos penggalak kedua amat penting bagi kumpulan berisiko tinggi iaitu warga emas, golongan berpenyakit kronik dan mereka yang mempunyai luluh daya imun (*immunocompromised*) seperti kanser dan HIV.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, pakar kesihatan berkata, pengambilan dos kedua dapat meningkatkan imunisasi badan terutama dengan kewujudan varian Covid-19 ketika ini.

Pegawai perubatan, Dr. Arisman Abdul Rahman memetik kenyataan Pengarah Pusat Pentadbiran Makanan dan Perubatan (FDA) Evolusi dan Penyakit Amerika Syarikat (AS), Dr. Peter Mark bahawa kajian menunjukkan terdapat penurunan kadar perlindungan atau antibodi melawan jangkitan serius Covid-19 dalam kumpulan tersebut.

Katanya, mengikut analisis data terkini, dos kedua vaksin penggalak Pfizer atau Moderna mampu membantu meningkatkan kadar perlindungan terhadap kelompok berisiko tinggi.

"Dia (Dr. Peter) sambung lagi, dos penggalak pertama (sebelum ini) masih cukup kuat dan membantu individu yang menerimanya dan sihat (bukan kelompok berisiko tinggi) untuk melawan jangkitan teruk," katanya di sini semalam.

Dalam pada itu, pakar perubatan kesihatan awam, Datuk Dr. Zainal Ariffin Omar berkata, memandangkan tiada paksaan mengambil dos tersebut, seelok-eloknya semua orang tanpa mengira lapisan umur mengambil inisiatif 'tepuk dada dan tanya selera'.

"Jika rasa perlu ambil dos kedua ini terutama dengan adanya varian-varian Covid-19, ambillah dos penggalak ini," katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

45 CASES IN SEVERE CATEGORIES

6,069 NEW COVID-19 CASES LOGGED

A drop in number of fresh infections and 10,619 recoveries recorded on Tuesday

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MALAYSIA recorded 6,069 Covid-19 infections on Tuesday, a drop from 7,140 cases on Monday.

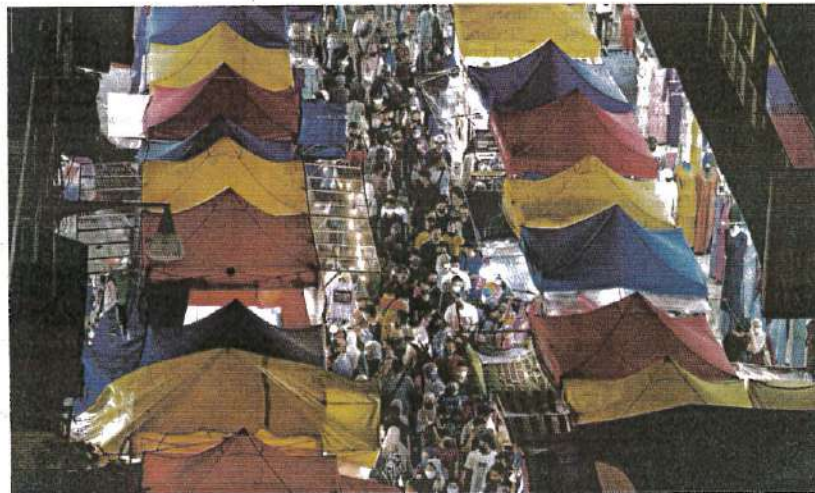
Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah in a statement said this brought the case tally to 4,402,234.

"Of the total cases reported, 110 were imported involving 73 Malaysians and 37 foreigners.

"There were 5,959 local transmissions, of which 5,745 were Malaysians and 214 were foreigners," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said of the new cases, 2,598 were in Category 1, 3,426 in Category 2, 21 in Category 3, 10 in Category 4 and 14 in Category 5.

"Out of the 45 Covid-19 cases in Categories 3, 4, and 5, nine were



People thronging the Aidilfitri Bazaar at Lorong Tuanku Abdul Rahman in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.
PIC BY EFFENDY RASHID

unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, 18 had received two Covid-19 vaccine doses but have yet to receive a booster and 18 have received booster doses.

"Twenty-one of these patients are aged 60 and above, and 26 have comorbidities."

Dr Noor Hisham said 241 cases

were admitted to hospital on Tuesday, with 144 being Categories 1 and 2 patients; and the remaining 97 in Categories 3, 4 and 5.

He said up to Tuesday, 97 patients were intensive care, with 64 of them ventilated.

Dr Noor Hisham said 10,619 re-

coveries were logged on Tuesday, bringing the tally to 4,274,746 or 97.1 per cent of the cases in the country.

He said five clusters were detected on Tuesday, which brought the number of active clusters to 109.

Dr Noor Hisham said only 13

per cent of intensive care beds, 19 per cent of normal hospital beds and five per cent quarantine centre beds in the country were in use.

On the national infectivity rate (Rt), he said it stood at 0.86.

Negri Sembilan's Rt value was reported at 0.90; Selangor and Melaka at 0.88; Perak and Kuala Lumpur at 0.87; Terengganu at 0.85; Putrajaya at 0.83; Johor at 0.78; Penang at 0.77; Sabah at 0.70; Kedah at 0.69; Pahang at 0.68; and Kelantan at 0.64.

Perlis and Labuan do not have an Rt value as they recorded only six and four infections, respectively.

Twelve Covid-19 fatalities were recorded on Tuesday, taking the country's death toll to 35,449.

One of them was a brought-in-dead case in Melaka.

Data on CovidNow and Github showed that Perak had the most fatalities, with five deaths.

Johor reported three deaths, and Kedah, Melaka, Pahang and Putrajaya reported one death each.

In the past two weeks, six Covid-19 deaths were reported per million people in Malaysia.

Putrajaya had the the highest rate among the states and federal territories, with 17 deaths per one million people.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION



Dr William Gotulis

HQE head: Repair works still ongoing

KOTA KINABALU: Up to 9am yesterday, some parts of Hospital Queen Elizabeth here are still relying on generator sets for power supply.

Hospital director Dr William Gotulis said repair work was still ongoing since the outage about noon on Tuesday.

"Work to continue today (yesterday) as some areas are still affected, such as the centralised air-conditioning.

"Otherwise, we (other parts of the hospital) are relying on power supplied directly from Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB)," he said, adding that the lifts were also working.

An SESB spokesperson said the utility company would continue to supply power using the portable generator sets.

"Until the hospital rectifies and restores its supply, SESB will continue assisting it.

"Our portable generator sets can support half of the hospital power supply requirement."

BASIC WELFARE

PUBLIC ASSETS' DISRUPTIONS UNACCEPTABLE

Power, water shortage at hospital shows Sabah govt's incompetence, says KK MP

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STRATEGIC public assets in Sabah should not face any power or water supply shortages.

Kota Kinabalu member of parliament Chan Foong Hin said the power outage at Hospital Queen Elizabeth (HQE) here on Tuesday had forced at least one surgery to be stopped midway pending transfer to another hospital.

Apart from the incident, Chan also said the hospital suffered leaks and experienced floodings.

In 2019, a heavy downpour had caused disruptions at the same hospital after leaks appeared in multiple locations, including one in the operating room being used for surgery, with the exterior reportedly flooded.

"We have also heard about power outages at the Kota Kinabalu International Airport as well as water supply shortage at industrial parks and businesses.

"The purpose of having these assets in the first place is to achieve certain national strategic aims, such as better access to transportation, health, national security — the basic welfare of the people," he said in a statement.

Chan added that by allowing public assets to suffer from shortages showed incompetence and indifferences towards the basic welfare of the people.

Meanwhile, HQE is closing its operation theatres for two days following the power outage.

Sabah Health Department director Datuk Dr Rose Nani Mudin said the measure was taken to ensure power supply to the wards and Intensive Care Units (ICUs)



Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) mobile generator sets supplying power to Hospital Queen Elizabeth in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF SESB

was adequate and stable.

The operating theatres were closed yesterday and today.

"The 29 elective surgeries scheduled for today (yesterday) will be postponed, and other emergency cases will be conducted at Hospital Queen Elizabeth II (HQE II)," she said.

Dr Rose said the concession company was still fixing the damaged cable to fully restore electricity supply.

"The hospital and the department will update the status on the supply and treatment from time to time."

On Tuesday, the hospital experienced power disruptions starting at 11.54am, which affected the twin towers, specialist clinic and an old medical building block.

During the outage, two existing generator sets and another back-up were used for power supply at the hospital. Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd had also provided two portable generator sets.

After the portable generator sets were functioning, all wards and ICUs were supplied with power, except the operation theatres.

Some of the patients and surgical procedures were transferred to HQE II nearby.

Surgeries at Hospital Queen Elizabeth II also disrupted

KOTA KINABALU: While the power outage issue at Hospital Queen Elizabeth (HQE) has yet to be fully solved, Sabah Health Department has to deal with burst pipes at another hospital.

Its director, Datuk Dr Rose Nani Mudin, said the burst pipe at

Hospital Queen Elizabeth II (HQE II) happened at 10.58am.

"The incident involved the water pipe connected to the main tank, which caused water leakages at the food store and linen areas at the basement of HQE II.

"An immediate action taken by HQE II and the concession company was to instal a bypass pipe."

Dr Rose said the situation was under control as the water had been cleared and repair work was expected to be completed by 8pm.

Footage of staff clearing water out from the hospital while a gush of water flowing from the roof was widely circulated.

Following a power outage at HQE since noon on Tuesday, some of the patients and surgeries were transferred to HQE II.

As precautionary measures, Dr Rose said only emergency surgeries would be performed while



Hospital Queen Elizabeth II staff clearing water out from the hospital in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF READER

elective cases would be postponed.

"Other healthcare services at HQE II are operating as usual.

"HQE II and the Sabah State

Health Department are working hard to solve the leaking pipe problem and will ensure treatment services are not affected."

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

KJ's mission to snuff out smoking

Health Minister bent on getting 'generational end game' law passed

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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KUALA LUMPUR: Enforcing the ban on smoking and possession of tobacco products among those born after 2005 will be a challenge but the Health Minister says he is determined to get the law passed in Parliament.

Khairy Jamaluddin said the ministry was committed to ensuring that the proposed "Generational

end game" plan in Malaysia was achieved.

"Let's get the law passed in Parliament this July. Generational end game to smoking.

"Those born after 2005 will not be able to buy smoking products, ever.

"Yes, enforcement will be an issue and we will work hard on this. But let's shut the door once and for all for our youth," he said on Twitter and Instagram.

The proposed Tobacco and

Smoking Control Act aims to prohibit the sale of tobacco products to those born after 2005.

This includes vape products.

If the law is passed, a person who turns 18 in 2023 will not be able to legally buy tobacco products.

Khairy first highlighted Malaysia's plan during the 150th session of the World Health Organisation's executive board meeting in Geneva recently.

The decision to introduce the

smoking ban is to reduce the number of new smokers in the country, as tobacco has been identified as the cause of many cancer deaths in Malaysia.

The country is said to spend RM132.7mil annually to treat lung cancer caused by smoking.

Last month, Khairy said the Tobacco and Smoking Control Bill was being finalised and that it should be tabled in the Dewan Rakyat in July.

"But let's shut the door once and for all for our youth."

Khairy Jamaluddin

10,619 recoveries recorded on Tuesday

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 10,619 Covid-19 recovery cases were recorded in the country on Tuesday, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries to 4,274,746, says the Health director-general.

Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the number of new cases had dropped to 6,069 compared with 7,140 recorded the previous day,

bringing the cumulative figure for positive Covid-19 cases thus far to 4,402,234.

"Of the 6,069 new cases reported yesterday, 5,959 were local transmissions involving 96.4% Malaysians and 3.6% foreigners, while 110 were imported cases comprising 66.4% Malaysians and 33.6% foreigners," he said in a statement

Bernama reported yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said a total of 241 Covid-19 cases were admitted to hospitals comprising 97 cases (40.2%) in Categories Three, Four and Five, while 144 cases (59.8%) were in Categories One and Two.

He said no state recorded over 50% of bed occupancy at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and

Covid-19 patients in need of a ventilator dropped to 64 with the percentage of ventilators use being 8%.

Five new clusters were identified, bringing the total number of active clusters to 109, while the Covid-19 infectivity rate or Rt value recorded nationwide was 0.86 with Negri Sembilan recording the highest Rt value of 0.90, he said.

487,728 children fully vaxxed under PICKids

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 487,728 children aged five to 11 or 13.7% of the child population in the country have been fully vaccinated under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) as of Tuesday.

According to the CovidNow website, a total of 1,425,865 children in the same age group or 40.1% have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

For adolescents aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,877,332 individuals or 92.5% of the group have completed the vaccination.

For this group, a total of 2,978,531 or 95.8% have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

As for the adult population, a total of 15,985,545 individuals or 67.9% have received the booster dose, 22,961,980 or 97.6% have completed both doses.

It was also reported that 23,238,874 or 98.8% have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

According to the website, almost 70 million doses of the vaccine has been administered in the country.

On Tuesday, a total of 47,612 doses of the vaccine were administered, with 35,398 as second doses, 4,635 booster doses and 7,579 as first doses, bringing the cumulative number of vaccine doses dispensed under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) to 69,742,922.

The immunisation programme was rolled out last year.

Bernama, citing the Health Ministry's GitHub portal, reported that 12 deaths due to Covid-19 were recorded on Tuesday, with Perak recording the highest number at five cases, followed by Johor with three cases.

Kedah, Melaka, Pahang and Putrajaya recorded one case each.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : NATION

Double whammy at sister hospitals

Power outage at QE1, burst pipe at QE2 being rectified, says Health Dept

By MUGUNTAN VANAR
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KOTA KINABALU: It was twin trouble here with a major hospital struggling with power outage while its namesake counterpart was having to deal with a burst water pipe.

Problems began at 11.30pm on Tuesday at Queen Elizabeth Hospital 1 (QE1) with staff having to depend on their mobile phone torchlights to get around. This following a power outage caused by an internal electrical fault.

Social media pictures uploaded showed scenes of staff using their built-in torch lights as firemen came to help people who were stuck in the elevators.

As for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital 2 (QE2), a video shared on social media yesterday showed medical staff cleaning out water that was gushing from a ceiling of a



Critical time:

The Intensive Care Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital 1 in Kota Kinabalu on temporary generator support during the power outage on Tuesday.

basement car park.

This was due to a burst water pipe at the car park yesterday morning.

The situation was under control although the hospital stopped all elective surgeries for the day pending completion of repairs on the water pipe.

Over at QE1, its operating theatres remained temporarily closed

for the second day yesterday as work continued to fix the electrical fault.

According to officials, emergency cases including surgeries have been diverted to the QE2 and the Women and Children Hospital in Likas here temporarily as technicians work to resolve the power problem.

They have also postponed 28 elective surgeries for the two days at QE1 as the current power was insufficient to support the required air-conditioning temperatures for the operating theatres.

Following Tuesday's power outage, the hospital operated on its generators but by 3.30pm, the generators also failed, triggering power failure across the hospital.

Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) sent in two of its mobile generator units to restore power by 7.10pm but faults within the internal electrical cables of the hospital were suspected of triggering the power outage.

Sabah Health Department director Datuk Dr Rose Nani Mudin said yesterday that repair works on the electrical cables were ongoing but could not say when they would be completed.

In a statement, she said the hospital was running on its two generators

that broke down before SESB sent in their mobile generator units.

Dr Rose said power was fully restored in all its units including the intensive care unit by 8pm on Tuesday though emergency cases needing critical services were transferred to QE2.

She said that there was minimal disruption to services and assured the public measures were being taken to help restore the power supply.

As for the burst pipe at QE2 which flooded the basement, she said that efforts are under way to speed up repairs.

She said that the situation was under control and that the water in the basement had been cleared.

She said that the QE2 management together with the maintenance contractors were putting in place a new pipeline to bypass the burst pipe.

SESB: Power outage caused by hospital's own cable

KOTA KINABALU: The power disruption at Queen Elizabeth Hospital 1 (QE1) stemmed from the hospital's own internal system, says Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB).

Its chief executive officer, Mohd Yaakob Jaafar, said an inspection

of SESB power cables to QE1 found that they were in good condition and had not suffered any damage.

"SESB's technical team tested and found that SESB's installation is in good condition and the cause of the supply disruption is in the hospital's

internal system," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said further checks found that the cause of the supply disruption in the hospital building was due to damage to the underground cable belonging to QE1.

"SESB is ready to assist the hospi-

tal to test and detect the location of the cable damage if needed," he said, adding that two mobile generator sets had been sent at 5pm on Tuesday to provide temporary power to the hospital.

A power outage occurred at the QE1 twin tower building at about

11.20am on Tuesday and the situation worsened when two of the in-house generators broke down at 3.30pm.

SESB brought in the mobile generators to QE1 by 5.47pm on Tuesday and temporary power supply was restored by 7.10pm.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Tawau Hospital upgrade to be done by year end

TAWAU: The upgrading of Tawau Hospital will be completed by the end of this year, said Deputy Works Minister Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup.

He said as of March 31, the project's progress had reached 70%, and to ensure that the remaining work could be completed on time, the contractor had to achieve a set progress target of about 4% every month.

"The target is based on discussions with the contractor and monitoring measures taken by the Public Works Department to ensure that work progresses according to the set schedule.

"The department closely monitors mitigation plans and the progress of the contractor's work. The contractor's performance will be evaluated according to a weekly work progress report," he told reporters after inspecting the project yesterday.

Arthur said the department would not hesitate to issue a warning to the contractor if there are delays.

"The hospital upgrading project started in 2017 and was scheduled to be completed in 2020 at a cost of about RM210 million, but the project was delayed due to movement control orders (MCO) as well as land-structure problems.

"So the Public Works Department, allowed an extension of time to the contractor.

"The MCO had led to a chain of problems such as a lack of local and foreign workers as well as difficulties in obtaining building materials due to the closure of factories," he said, adding that currently, the contractor employed 80% local workers, reducing reliance on foreign labour.

Arthur said when the project is completed, Tawau Hospital will be the largest one in the East Coast of Sabah and a referral hospital for surrounding districts.

He said the new hospital will accommodate an additional 154 beds, bringing the total number to 555, while other facilities include six operating rooms, four endoscopy suites, 30 haemodialysis units as well as a helipad, the first for a hospital in Sabah. - Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN
 MUKA SURAT : 4
 RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Over 22m adults complete two doses

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 487,728 children aged five to 11 or 13.7% of the child population have been fully vaccinated under the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme for Children as of Tuesday.

According to the CovidNOW website, 1,425,865 children or 40.1% have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

For adolescents aged 12 to 17, 2,877,332 or 92.5% have completed the vaccination, while 2,978,531 or 95.8% have received at least one vaccine dose.

A total of 15,985,545 of adults or 67.9% have received the booster dose, 22,961,980 or 97.6% have completed both doses, while 23,238,874 or 98.8% received at least one dose.

A total of 47,612 doses were administered on Tuesday, with 35,398 as second doses, 4,635 as booster doses and 7,579 as first doses, bringing the cumulative number of doses dispensed under the immunisation programme to 69,742,922.

According to the Health Ministry's GitHub portal, 12 deaths due to Covid-19 were reported, with Perak recording the highest number at five cases, followed by Johor with three cases. Kedah, Malacca, Pahang and Putrajaya recorded one case each. - Bernama

New cases showing downward trend

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 10,619 Covid-19 recovered cases were recorded on Tuesday, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries to 4,274,746.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the number of new daily cases had dropped to 6,069 compared with 7,140 recorded the previous day, bringing the cumulative number of cases thus far to 4,402,234.

"Of the new cases, 5,959 were local transmissions involving 96.4% locals and 3.6% foreigners, while 110 were imported cases comprising 66.4% locals and 33.6% foreigners," he said in a statement yesterday.

Noor Hisham said a total of 241 Covid-19 patients were admitted to hospitals comprising 97 cases (40.2%) in categories three, four and five, while 144 cases (59.8%) in categories one and two.

He added no state recorded over 50% of bed occupancy at the intensive care unit.

Five new clusters were identified bringing the total number of active clusters to 109, while the infectivity rate or Rt value recorded nationwide was 0.86 with Negri Sembilan recording the highest Rt value of 0.90, he said. - Bernama

Khairy renews call for youth smoking ban

KUALA LUMPUR: Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin has repeated a call for the bill on youth smoking ban to be passed when it is tabled in Dewan Rakyat in July.

Khairy in a tweet yesterday said a new law would be a generational end game to smoking.

"Those born after 2005 will not be

able to buy smoking products. Yes, enforcement will be an issue and we will work hard on this," he said.

His posting came with a retweet of a post by a local news organisation, which reported that a survey conducted by a non-governmental organisation for tobacco control showed that the

policy was supported by 95% of young respondents aged 24 and below and 89% of smokers and vapers.

In March, Khairy said a new law to ban smoking activities and possession of any smoking products, including electronic cigarettes for those born after 2005, will be tabled

in Dewan Rakyat in July.

On Feb 17, Khairy announced the introduction of the law, aimed at reducing the exposure of future generations to cigarettes and smoking products, as their consumption is a major factor in cancer incidences and accounts for 22% of cancer deaths. - Bernama