

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 19

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Isytihar perang pasaran gelap, rokok seludup

Ikrar dilaksana jika RUU larangan merokok individu lahir 2005 dilulus

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Bangi: Kerajaan bertekad untuk mengisytiharkan perang terhadap pasaran gelap dan rokok seludup bagi membasmi kesan tembakau secara menyeluruh.

Mengikrarkan janji sedemikian, Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, berkata ia akan dilaksanakan sekiranya Rang Undang-Undang (RUU) larangan merokok bagi individu yang di-

lahirkan pada 2005 diluluskan.

Walaupun matlamat itu disifatkan sebagai populis oleh segelintir pihak, beliau berkata, ia akan tetap dirintis untuk memastikan natijah daripada ketagihan nikotin tidak menjejaskan generasi pelapis negara.

"Jangan sebab masalah penguatkuasaan, kita tiada cita-cita lebih tinggi. Percayalah jika dapat luluskan RUU ini KKM (Kementerian Kesihatan) akan bekerjasama dengan semua agensi penguat kuasa.

"Kita akan isytihar perang pasaran gelap dan rokok seludup bagi membasmi produk ini secara menyeluruh," katanya ketika melancarkan Generasi Penamat Anti Rokok 18 (GEGAR-18), di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Bandar Seri Putra, semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Menteri Kanan (Pendidikan), Datuk Dr Radzi Jidin.

Khairy menegaskan tabiat pengambilan nikotin bukan sekadar mengundang kerugian pada perokok, sebaliknya ia mencetuskan kesan rantaian terhadap pelbagai aspek seperti kesihatan awam, ekonomi dan produktiviti di tempat kerja.

Mengikut perangkaan semasa, beliau mengunjurkan bahawa kerajaan bakal berdepan kerugian mencecah RM273 bilion rentetan kematian pramatang yang berpunca daripada komplikasi kesan merokok, selain ketidakhadiran bekerja dan merencatkan produktiviti.

"Justeru, ini bukan berkait pilihan saya sahaja seperti tanggapan segelintir pihak, tetapi sebenarnya ada kesan kepada ke-



Khairy menyampaikan ucapan pada Majlis Pelancaran GEGAR-18 di SMK Bandar Seri Putra, Bangi, semalam. (Foto Alizuddin Saad/BH)

sihatan orang lain, ekonomi negara, produktiviti negara.

"Sebab itu, KKM pandang serius mengenai perkara ini dan fikirkan mekanisme bagaimana nak pastikan generasi pelapis negara tidak kenal rokok, 'vape' atau produk tembakau.

"Memang betul Malaysia antara pasaran gelap paling besar di dunia dalam konteks rokok seludup, menjangkau lebih 60 peratus, tetapi KKM tidak boleh 'berpeluk tubuh'.

"Justeru, antara langkah yang kita akan ambil ialah untuk kurangkan produk nikotin dan kawal ketat penjualan vape supaya kawal selia seperti ini bakal menjadikan produk ini tidak me-

narik di mata orang ramai," katanya.

Khairy berkata, RUU larangan merokok bagi individu dilahirkan pada 2005 kini pada peringkat akhir dan sedang diteliti Jabatan Peguam Negara.

Memperincikan perkembangan itu, beliau berkata, draf RUU berkenaan dijangka dimuktamadkan dalam tempoh terdekat, dengan mengambil kira pandangan pelbagai pihak dan pemegang taruh berkaitan.

Katanya, antara pendirian dan pandangan pemegang taruh yang diambil kira dalam usaha merangka RUU itu, termasuk daripada penggiat industri produk tembakau negara.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 20
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

Malaysia catat lebih kematian lebih rendah

**Angka direkod
tunjuk tindak
balas baik
diambil terhadap
pandemik**

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Putrajaya: Malaysia merekodkan lebih kematian lebih rendah, berbanding negara lain sepanjang pandemik COVID-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, berkata keadaan itu menunjukkan tindak balas negara terhadap pandemik COVID-19 adalah baik.

Katanya, peningkatan lebih kematian hanya berlaku ketika lonjakan kes positif CO-

VID-19 dalam gelombang varian Delta sekitar Julai dan Ogos 2021.

Lebih kematian merujuk perbezaan antara jumlah kematian sebenar yang direkodkan ketika pandemik, berbanding jumlah kematian yang dijangka berlaku dalam sesebuah populasi untuk jangka masa tertentu.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, tindakan kesihatan awam yang dijalankan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) pada peringkat awal penularan COVID-19, iaitu di antara Mac 2020 hingga Jun 2021 membuktikan ia tindakan yang baik.

Negara diletakkan dalam Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) bermula 18 Mac 2020.

"Apa yang kita lihat kepatuhan kepada prosedur operasi standard yang penting, bukan sekatan penuh.

"Yang kedua, semasa lonjakan kes COVID-19 varian Delta

pada Julai dan Ogos 2021, kita sudah menjalankan liputan vaksinasi yang dipertingkat di Lembah Klang.

"Ternyata ia dapat mengawal jangkitan varian Delta dan menurunkan kes positif dengan cepat, lebih baik daripada jangkaan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO).

"Ini menunjukkan liputan vaksinasi yang tinggi dapat berkesan dan dapat mengawal COVID-19 dengan baik," katanya pada Sesi Libat Urus Lebih Kematian Semasa Pandemik COVID-19 di Malaysia yang dijalankan dalam talian.

Ahli panel terdiri daripada, Pengarah Institut Penyelidikan Klinikal (ICR), Datuk Dr P Kallarasu dan Ketua Unit Pusat Penyelidikan Tinjauan Institut Kesihatan Umum, Institut Kesihatan Negara, Dr G Shubash Shander.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, berbanding United Kingdom (UK)

yang mempunyai penduduk dua kali ganda negara ini, kematian akibat COVID-19 di negara itu hampir 140,000 berbanding kira-kira 35,000 kematian di Malaysia.

Sementara itu, Dr Shubash berkata, data menunjukkan Malaysia mencatat kes kematian rendah berbanding jumlah kematian yang dijangka di antara Mac 2020 dan Jun 2021 iaitu 19,099 kes.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, kes kematian melonjak di antara Julai hingga Disember 2021 dengan kemuncak ketika gelombang varian Delta, iaitu peningkatan 27,013 berbanding jumlah kematian yang dijangka.

"Secara keseluruhan daripada Mac 2020 hingga Disember 2021 Malaysia merekodkan +7,914 kematian mengikut jangkaan kita dan ini menunjukkan jumlah kematian yang berlaku sehingga terkini untuk pandemik COVID-19 Malaysia.

**Tindakan
kesihatan awam yang
dijalankan KKM pada
peringkat awal
penularan COVID-19,
iaitu di antara Mac
2020 hingga Jun 2021
membuktikan itu
tindakan
yang baik**

Dr Noor Hisham
Abdullah,
Ketua Pengarah
Kesihatan



"Kita lihat trend dan jumlah lebih kematian hampir sama dengan WHO iaitu pada +7,692. Yang penting, ia menunjukkan trend negatif pada awal pandemik dan hanya meningkat apabila varian Delta meningkat pada pertengahan 2021.

"Perbezaan yang kita lihat lebih banyak kematian pada kemuncak pandemik itu berbanding dengan model yang dijanakan WHO," katanya.

Selain itu, beliau berkata, jumlah kes kematian negara juga menunjukkan penurunan lebih cepat yang diramalkan oleh WHO.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : COVID-19

22,964,189 dewasa lengkap vaksinasi

Kuala Lumpur: Jumlah kanak-kanak berumur antara lima hingga 11 tahun yang sudah melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka di bawah Program Imunisasi Kanak-Kanak Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICKids) kini meningkat kepada 705,864 individu atau 19.9 peratus.

Berdasarkan laman web Covidnow, setakat kelmarin seramai 1,488,811 kanak-kanak dalam kumpulan sama atau 42 peratus sudah menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Bagi remaja berumur 12

hingga 17 tahun, seramai 2,886,817 individu atau 92.8 peratus sudah lengkap divaksin manakala 2,986,324 atau 96 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sementara itu, seramai 16,009,979 individu dewasa atau 68 peratus sudah menerima dos penggalak manakala 22,964,189 atau 97.6 peratus sudah melengkapkan kedua-dua dos vaksin dan 23,241,082 atau 98.8 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

KKM rekod 10,223 kes sembuh Covid-19

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 4,006 kes baharu Covid-19 dicatatkan kelmarin dengan 32.15 peratus daripadanya adalah Kategori 1 dan 67.25 peratus Kategori 2, kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Menurutnya daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak 12 kes atau 0.30 peratus adalah Kategori 3, manakala Kategori 4 dan 5 masing-masing mencatatkan enam kes atau 0.15 peratus.

Daripada keseluruhan 24 kes bagi Kategori 3, 4 dan 5, lapan kes tidak divaksin

atau belum lengkap vaksinasi, sembilan kes lagi sudah mendapat dua dos vaksin Covid-19, tetapi belum menerima dos penggalak manakala tujuh kes sudah menerima dos penggalak.

Daripada jumlah itu, sembilan kes berumur 60 tahun dan ke atas manakala 12 kes mempunyai komorbid.

Menerusi satu kenyataan semalam, beliau berkata, pertambahan kes baharu itu menjadikan kumulatif kes Covid-19 dalam negara kini adalah 4,431,073 selain satu kluster baharu

dilaporkan kelmarin menjadikan jumlah kluster aktif adalah 97 kluster.

Selain itu, sebanyak 165 kes dimasukkan ke hospital dengan 91 adalah Kategori 1 dan 2 manakala 74 kes adalah Kategori 3, 4 dan 5.

Jumlah kes sembuh pula adalah 10,223 menjadikan kumulatif kes sembuh dalam negara adalah 4,320,822.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, Malaysia mencatatkan kadar kebolehhajatan Covid-19 (nilai Rt) 0.77 kelmarin dengan Putrajaya merekodkan kadar tertinggi iaitu 1.15.



DR NOOR HISHAM

ANCAMAN KESIHATAN PASCA COVID-19

Influenza muncul kembali!

Bernama

Kuala Lumpur

Ketika Malaysia sedang beralih ke fasa endemik Covid-19, ada satu persoalan besar yang mungkin perlu ditimbang oleh masyarakat, iaitu tentang jangkitan influenza di negara ini.

Influenza atau flu, merupakan penyakit respiratori berjangkit yang disebabkan oleh virus influenza dan boleh menjadi ancaman kesihatan yang serius buat kumpulan berisiko tinggi seperti wanita hamil, kanak-kanak, penghidap penyakit kronik dan warga emas. Jangkitan ini sebenarnya berlaku sepanjang masa di Malaysia dan adakala mencetuskan wabak dengan setenengahnya

agak serius.

Sepertimana yang ditunjukkan oleh pandemik Covid-19, penyakit respiratori ini juga boleh memberikan kesan paling teruk terhadap warga emas.

Warga tua, khususnya yang menghidap penyakit kronik, lebih berisiko mengalami flu yang teruk serta komplikasi mengancam nyawa yang mungkin memerlukan mereka dirawat di hospital atau, dalam setenengah kes,

ditempatkan di unit rawatan rapi.

PENINGKATAN KES FLU

Menurut Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Teknikal Program Imunisasi4Life (IFL) Prof. Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail, virus influenza kini muncul kembali dan berpotensi 'mengganas' dengan lebih hebat selepas hampir lenyap akibat ketibaan Covid-19.

Katanya selain Malaysia, negara-negara lain juga melaporkan peningkatan kes flu sejak kebelakangan ini.

Beliau turut menyuarakan kebimbangan tentang jangkaan peningkatan kes flu susulan pembukaan semula sempadan antara-bangsa Malaysia dan sektor-sektor lain, yang mana lebih ramai ahli masyarakat akan melakukan perjalanan ke luar kawasan selain lebih bebas bergaul.

Sambutan hari raya tidak lama lagi akan menyaksikan perhimpunan keluarga serta aktiviti rumah terbuka dan ini mungkin turut menyumbang kepada peningkatan jangkitan flu, tambahnya.

"Apabila ini berlaku, kebanyakan kita agak terdedah kepada jangkitan itu kerana rata-rata ahli masyarakat tidak divaksinasi bagi mencegah flu. Hakikat tidak ada penularan virus flu dalam tempoh dua tahun lepas memburukkan lagi keadaan kerana tahap imuniti populasi terhadap jangkitan tersebut adalah lemah," jelasnya kepada Bernama.

KADAR KERENTANAN TINGGI

Sementara itu, Dr Tan Maw Pin, profesor dalam bidang perubatan geriatrik di Universiti Malaya (UM), mendedahkan data yang agak membimbangkan tentang flu. Memetik kajian terkini yang diterbitkan oleh The Lancet, beliau berkata, orang dewasa yang dijangkiti oleh kedua-dua Covid-19 dan flu, empat kali lebih berkemungkinan menerima ventilasi mekanikal invasif sementara risiko kematian pula meningkat dua

kali ganda.

Satu lagi kajian terkini menunjukkan tujuh daripada 10 individu berusia 65 tahun ke atas yang dijangkiti flu, lebih berisiko mengalami komplikasi seperti paru-paru berair (pneumonia), radang otak, kegagalan pelbagai organ dan sepsis (tidak balas sistem imun yang melampau terhadap jangkitan).

"Kelemahan sistem imun dan kemerosotan fungsi paru-paru meningkatkan kemungkinan dijangkiti flu, dimasukkan ke hospital dan mungkin maut akibat penyakit itu. Namun, banyak keluarga langsung tidak sedar ibu bapa atau datuk dan nenek mereka yang sudah berusia dijangkiti flu," jelasnya.

KOMBINASI MAUT

Profesor di Fakulti Perubatan UM Dr Chan Siew Pheng pula berkata diabetes boleh memburukkan lagi jangkitan flu kerana kandungan gula dalam darah yang tinggi boleh menjejaskan sistem imun serta meningkatkan kekerapan dijangkiti dan tempoh jangkitan flu.

"Ramai penghidap diabetes turut mengalami komorbid iaitu menghidap penya-

kit lain seperti tekanan darah tinggi dan penyakit buah pinggang, dan ini hanya meningkatkan kemungkinan mengalami komplikasi flu yang serius," kata pakar endokrinologi itu, menambah lebih 40 peratus rakyat Malaysia berusia 60 tahun dan ke atas menghidap diabetes jenis 2.

Beliau menjelaskan flu boleh meningkatkan kesukaran penghidap diabetes mengawal penyakit mereka, sekali gus menyebabkan kandungan gula dalam darah meningkat.

"Flu juga menjejaskan selera makan dan pengambilan makanan, menyebabkan kadar gula dalam darah turun. Keadaan mereka yang semakin teruk ini boleh mencetuskan kes kecemasan diabetes yang mengancam nyawa," tambah beliau.

AKIBAT YANG AMAT SERIUS

Sementara itu, Dr Zulkifli berkata, flu boleh mengakibatkan kesan yang amat serius terhadap warga tua dan keluarga mereka. Ini boleh berlaku apabila ibu bapa yang sudah berusia dimasukkan ke hospital dan anak-anak terpaksa menanggung kos rawatan.



PENGHIDAP sakit kronik antara golongan berisiko mengalami flu yang teruk dan komplikasi mengancam nyawa.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Jangkitan malaria zoonotik meningkat

Penyebab utama kematian malaria di Malaysia sejak tahun 2017

Bernama

Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia sedang menghadapi ancaman baharu yang serius dalam jangkitan malaria iaitu peningkatan jangkitan malaria zoonotik.

Menteri Kesihatan Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, jangkitan malaria zoonotik di Malaysia meningkat dengan drastik dari 376 kes pada 2008 kepada 3,575 kes pada 2021 dan muncul sebagai penyebab utama kematian malaria di Malaysia sejak 2017.

"Selain jangkitan malaria manusia, Malaysia turut menghadapi ancaman baharu yang lebih besar iaitu peningkatan jangkitan malaria zoonotik yang disebabkan oleh parasit *Plasmodium knowlesi*."

"Ia ditularkan daripada haiwan (beruk/kera) yang merupakan perumah semula jadi bagi parasit ini kepada manusia melalui gigitan nyamuk *Anopheles* sp."

"Berbeza dengan malaria manusia, penularan jangkitan malaria zoonotik kerap berlaku di luar rumah," katanya dalam kenyataan sempena sambutan Hari Malaria Peringkat Kebangsaan semalam.

Katanya, peningkatan kes adalah disebabkan oleh pembukaan tanah yang pesat untuk aktiviti perladangan yang menyebabkan peningkatan pendedahan manusia kepada haiwan perumah semula jadi malaria zoonotik.

"Pada masa ini, rawatan malaria sedia ada berkesan untuk malaria zoonotik. Cakaran Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dalam menanganinya jangkitan ini adalah ketiadaan kaedah kawalan vektor yang berkesan bagi membendung penularan di luar rumah."

"Jika seseorang bergejala demam dan mempunyai sejarah masuk ke kawasan berisiko malaria atau baru pulang dari negara endemik malaria perlu segera mendapat rawatan di fasiliti kesihatan. Pekerja yang terlibat dalam sektor perladangan dan perhutanan pula perlu menjalani saringan malaria secara berkala," katanya.

Sementara itu, Khairy memaklumkan Malaysia berjaya mencapai sifar jangkitan tempatan malaria manusia untuk tahun keempat berturut-turut bermula 2018 hingga 2021.

Kejayaan tersebut, katanya diperoleh hasil keberkesanan inovasi dan strategi pengurusan kes dan kawalan vektor yang dilaksanakan oleh KKM.

"Antara inovasi yang telah dilaksanakan adalah semburan residual racun serangga (IRS), penggunaan kelambu berubut dan penggunaan ubat

Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACT) bagi rawatan malaria. Selain itu, liputan capaian kepada perkhidmatan diagnosis, rawatan dan kawalan vektor di kawasan terpencil telah dipertingkatkan dengan pembinaan pejabat subsektor malaria," katanya.

Bagaimanapun, katanya Malaysia masih terdedah kepada risiko kemasukan semula jangkitan malaria manusia kerana terdapat kes malaria import dalam kalangan pekerja asing yang baru tiba atau warga Malaysia yang pulang dari negara endemik malaria, iaitu pada 2021, Malaysia melaporkan 111 kes import malaria manusia.

"Bagi menanganinya ancaman ini, KKM telah menyusun strategi baru seperti saringan malaria di pintu masuk terpilih dan memetakan kawasan yang mempunyai risiko tinggi ke-

masuk semula malaria seterusnya melaksanakan intervensi pencegahan termasuk aktiviti kawalan vektor."

"Di samping itu, KKM juga telah mengenal pasti sektor berisiko seperti perladangan dan perhutanan untuk diberi tumpuan pelaksanaan aktiviti survelan malaria," katanya.

Hari Malaria Sedunia disambut pada 25 April setiap tahun bagi mengiktiraf usaha global mengawal malaria. Tema sambutan pada 2022 adalah Memanfaatkan Inovasi untuk Mengurangkan Beban Penyakit Malaria dan Menyelamatkan Nyawa.



DR NOORHAIDA melakukan pemeriksaan terhadap produk makanan di sebuah pasar raya.

Jual makanan tamat tempoh elak kerugian

Muar: Pengurus sebuah pasar raya di sini memberi alasan tidak menyedari makanan yang dijual sudah tamat tempoh ketika diperiksa Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) Muar, kelmarin.

Pegawai Kesihatan Daerah, Dr Noorhaida Ujang berkata, dalam Operasi Lak dan Sita sempena Aidilfitri itu sebanyak 237 makanan pek dan bertin tamat tempoh, bungkus rosak atau kemek dan kesalahan pada label makanan dikesan.

"Pengurus berkenaan memberikan alasan bahawa itu adalah keculaan pekerja hingga menyebabkan makanan yang rosak masih dijual dan diletakkan di rak."

"Hasil pemeriksaan yang dijalankan mendapati makanan yang tamat tempoh terus terjual. Alasan diberikan penyelia adalah mereka sudah mengarahkan pekerja untuk semakan tarikh luput, tapi ia tidak dilakukan," katanya ketika ditemui.

Beliau berkata, ada makanan dalam tin yang jelas sudah kemek namun ma-

sih diletakkan di rak jualan dan itu alasan pihak pasar raya untuk mengelakkan kerugian jika makanan yang luput tarikh dihapuskan.

"Tiga notis 32B dikeluarkan atas kesalahan di bawah kesalahan Peraturan 14 (9)(b) iaitu makanan yang sudah luput tarikh, Peraturan 11(1)(j) tiada nama dan alamat pengeluar pada label makanan serta kesalahan Peraturan 10 iaitu label yang tidak mengikut kehendak bahasa ditetapkan," katanya.

Noorhaida berkata, semua makanan itu disita di bawah Seksyen 41(1)(f) Akta Makanan 1983.

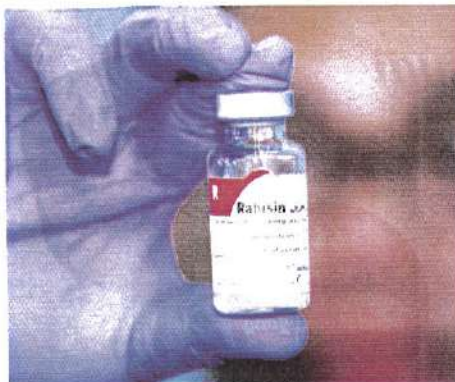
"Keseluruhan barang rampasan adalah sebanyak 237 kuantiti bernilai RM1,389 dan nilai kompaun keseluruhan dikeluarkan adalah sebanyak RM10,000."

"Kecuaian pihak pasar raya menjual makanan telah rosak adalah berikutan tiada mekanisme atau kaedah dilakukan untuk memeriksa tarikh luput bagi setiap barang," katanya.



"Pekerja sektor perladangan dan perhutanan perlu jalani saringan malaria berkala"

Khairy



MANGSA mempunyai sejarah digigit anjing liar di kawasan kediamannya di Pulau Carey dua bulan lalu.

Warga emas di Selangor positif rabies

Shah Alam: Wabak anjing gila kian menular di Selangor berikutan satu lagi kes jangkitan rabies dikesan membabitkan seorang lelaki warga emas berusia 85 tahun di daerah Kuala Langat.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor (JKNS), Datuk Dr Sha'ari Ngadiman berkata, kes itu disahkan pada 22 April lalu dan ia menjadikan dua kes jangkitan rabies di negeri ini setakat ini.

Beliau berkata, terdahulu warga emas itu dirujuk ke Klinik Kesihatan Telok Panglima kerana masalah



Pemeriksaan mendapati mangsa mempunyai luka di kaki kanannya yang tidak sembuh sejak dua bulan yang lalu"

Dr Sha'ari
anemia (pucat) sebelum dimasukkan Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah (HTAR) Klang pada 20 April lalu.

Katanya, ahli keluarga

mangsa mendapati tingkah laku warga emas itu berubah kerana beliau adalah seorang yang aktif dan mampu menguruskan diri sendiri.

"Pemeriksaan mendapati mangsa mempunyai luka di kaki kanannya yang tidak sembuh sejak dua bulan yang lalu."

"Sejak dua minggu lalu juga, beliau turut mengadu sakit kepala dan hilang selera makan."

"Beliau turut mempunyai sejarah digigit anjing liar di kawasan kediamannya di Pulau Carey dua bulan lalu,"

katanya menerusi Facebook rasmi JKNS.

Dr Sha'ari berkata sampel cecair tulang belakang (CSF) dan biopsi nuchal mangsa sudah diambil pada 22 April dan disahkan positif rabies oleh Institut Penyelidikan Perubatan (IMR).

Jelasnya, warga emas itu kini berada dalam keadaan stabil dan masih dirawat di wad isolasi HTAR.

JKNS pada 10 April lalu memaklumkan terdapat satu kes kematian membabitkan seorang lelaki warga tempatan yang disahkan rabies pada 4 April.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 22

RUANGAN : LOKAL



KHAIRY bersama Radzi dan sebahagian pelajar melakukan simbolik anti rokok di SMK Bandar Seri Putra, Bangi, semalam. - Gambar NSTP/AIZUDDIN SAAD

DRAF RUU LARANGAN MEROKOK GENERASI SELEPAS 2005

Jabatan Peguam Negara sedang teliti

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Rangl

Draf akhir Rang Undang-Undang (RUU) larangan merokok dan milikan produk merokok termasuk rokok elektronik (vape) terhadap generasi muda yang lahir selepas 2005 sedang diteliti Jabatan Peguam Negara.

Menteri Kesihatan Khairy Jamaluddin berkata, draf RUU berkenaan sudah selesai diperincikan dan di peringkat akhir sebelum di-

bawa ke Parlimen pada Julai ini.

Menurutnya, ia adalah usaha Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) untuk memastikan golongan yang lahir selepas 2005 tidak kenal dan tidak terbabat dengan sebaran produk tembakau dan vape.

"KKM sudah bertemu dengan pelbagai pihak termasuk badan bukan kerajaan (NGO), agensi kerajaan dan industri tembakau untuk mendapatkan maklum balas.

"Penelitian mengenai hasil pertemuan itu diperincikan bagi membolehkan RUU yang dibentangkan ju-

lai nanti mendapat sokongan Ahli Parlimen.

"Draf akhir RUU itu sudah siap dan kini dihantar ke Jabatan Peguam Negara untuk penelitian sebelum dibentangkan di Parlimen, Julai ini," katanya dalam sidang media selepas Majlis Pelancaran Generasi Penamat Anti Rokok 18 (Gegar-18) di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Bandar Seri Putra, semalam. Turut hadir, Menteri Kanan (Pendidikan), Datuk Dr Radzi Jidin.

Khairy berkata, impak RUU itu kelak membolehkan kerajaan memastikan

generasi yang lahir selepas 2005 bebas daripada rokok, bukan sahaja baik untuk kesihatan, malah buat ekonomi dan produktiviti negara.

Dalam pada itu, Radzi berkata, Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia (KPM) sentiasa menyokong usaha yang dilakukan KKM untuk memastikan generasi muda bebas rokok.

"Peranan KPM sangat penting dalam memastikan program ini dapat dilaksanakan di sekolah dan intervensi kepada murid yang memerlukan bantuan lanjut akan dijalankan oleh semua guru kaunselor," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

'SOP bersifat selamat dan cermat'

Kerajaan tidak mahu tersilap langkah berkaitan kelonggaran pengumuman SOP

KALANG

Kelonggaran beberapa prosedur operasi standard (SOP) Covid-19 yang bakal diumumkan Rabu ini bersifat selamat dan cermat, kata Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan tidak mahu tersilap langkah dan mengelak usaha yang dilakukan untuk mengawal wabak Covid-19 selama ini disia-siakan.

"KKM (Kementerian Kesihatan) telah bincang panjang lebar, kita akan bentangkan pada kabinet Rabu ini dan jika diluluskan kita akan umumkan nanti,"

katanya selepas melancarkan Generational End Game Anti Rokok 18 (GEGAR-18) di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Bandar Seri Putra di sini pada Isnin.

Turut hadir, Menteri Kanan (Pendidikan), Datuk Dr Mohd Radzi Md Jidin.

Sementara itu, Khairy berkata, setakat ini seramai 1,939 individu telah mendapatkan suntikan dos penggalak kedua.

"Kebanyakan mereka mendapatkan dos tersebut secara jumpa terus," katanya.

Mengenai ibadah haji, Khairy berkata, KKM akan mengeluarkan protokol baharu susulan syarat yang dikenakan kerajaan Arab Saudi ke atas jemaah haji tahun ini.

"Kita juga akan pastikan tugas kesihatan yang cukup untuk membantu para jemaah kita di sana. Kita akan sediakan garis panduan persiapan ke sana dalam masa terdekat," katanya.

Malaysia mendapat kuota se-



Khairy (dua dari kiri) dan Mohd Radzi (kiri) berbual sambil membuat pemantauan terhadap pelajar pada Majlis Pelancaran GEGAR-18 di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Bandar Seri Putra pada Isnin.

ramai 14,306 jemaah untuk mengerjakan haji daripada kerajaan Arab Saudi, tahun ini.

Antara syarat dikenakan jemaah yang dibenarkan berusia

65 tahun ke bawah dan telah lengkap vaksin Covid-19.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, draf Rang Undang-Undang Larangan Tembakau dan Rokok

bagi mereka yang lahir selepas 2005 kini dalam proses semakan akhir Jabatan Peguam Negara dan dijangka dibentang di Parlimen pada Julai.

"Beberapa pusingan libat urus termasuk dengan industri rokok diadakan untuk mendengar pandangan daripada semua pihak sebelum memuktamadkan keputusan berhubung perkara itu.

"Di bawah peruntukan akta itu, anak-anak yang lahir pada 1 Januari 2005 atau tahun-tahun selepas itu tidak dibenarkan merokok termasuk membeli atau memiliki sebarang bentuk produk merokok termasuk rokok elektronik atau vape walaupun mereka telah melepasi umur 18 tahun," katanya.

Selain itu, katanya semua pedagang dan penjual produk merokok juga tidak boleh menjual produk merokok kepada kumpulan anak-anak yang tergolong dalam larangan itu. - Bernama

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : -



'What is more depressing is there are people who smoke in the presence of their families, including children, exposing them to health risks as well.'

■ Khairy Jamaluddin on the destructive impact of smoking on society and the economy

» REPORT BY ADIB POVERA ON PAGE 2

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

ECONOMY UP IN SMOKE

KJ: WHY WE MUST WIN ANTI-SMOKING WAR

RM273 billion loss due to premature deaths from smoking-related causes in country

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THE government has to step up its fight against all smoking products as the detrimental effects on the economy could run into hundreds of billions of ringgit, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said yesterday.

He said the government would lose an estimated RM273 billion due to smoking-related premature deaths if nothing was done to phase out the habit.

Khairy said smoking would not only affect the people's health but also the country's productivity, as well as strain the public health system.

"Some smokers question why I am intervening, since they have done nothing to disturb other people. The problem is smoking will not only affect the health of smokers but also the people around them. And this is backed by science.

"What is more depressing is there are people who smoke in the presence of their families, including children, exposing them to health risks as well," Khairy said at the launch of the "Generation End Game Anti-Smoking 18" (Gegar 18) initiative at SM Bandar Seri Putra here yesterday.

Present was Senior Education



Senior Education Minister Datuk Dr Radzi Jidin speaking to a student at SM Bandar Seri Putra, Bangi, yesterday as Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin looks on. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

Minister Datuk Dr Radzi Jidin.

Khairy said about 20,000 people in the country died from smoking-related complications annually.

"I believe and am confident that the figure (death toll) is higher than that if we also include people (who are also smokers) who died from heart-related and other illness.

"Smoking affects both the health of the people and economy of the country," he said.

Later, Khairy said the final draft of the bill to ban smoking and tobacco products within a generation was with the Attorney-General's Chambers (A-GC).

"We carried out engagements with several quarters, including non-governmental organisations, government agencies as well as tobacco industry players to get their feedback.

"The final draft of the bill is ready and is with the A-GC before

it is tabled in the next Dewan Rakyat sitting in July," he said.

If the bill is passed, smoking and the possession of any smoking products, including electronic cigarettes, will be banned for those born after 2005.

"When the bill is passed, we will be able to control the sale, possession as well as advertisement of smoking products, including e-cigarettes (vape) irrespective of the platforms, such as social media," he said.

Khairy said passing the bill would mean nothing if contraband cigarettes, which made up 60 per cent of the market, continued to be smuggled in.

"We will meet with the Customs Department, police and other enforcement agencies for stricter enforcement.

"We want them to also be involved and we will launch an all out war against contraband cigarettes," he said.

AVOIDING MISTAKES

'Ministry will ensure S.O.P rules eased safely'

BANGI: The Health Ministry wants to ensure that relaxing Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOP) is done safely.

Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the ministry wanted to manage the situation properly and avoid mistakes.

"We wanted to manage the situation properly including ensur-

ing that cases will continue to register a declining trend and that our hospitals are not under enormous pressure," he said yesterday when asked about the relaxation of SOPs, which could be announced tomorrow.

"Therefore, based on this spirit, I will present the matter for approval to the cabinet on Wednes-

day. If the cabinet approves, I will announce it the same day."

On Sunday, Khairy said the ministry had informed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob of its plans to relax SOPs.

Khairy also said 1,939 doses of the second Covid-19 vaccine booster shot had been administered.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NATION/NEWS

LOWER EXCESS MORTALITY RATE

FEWER COVID DEATHS WITH STRICT S.O.P

Pandemic strategy kept death rate down compared with other nations, says Health DG

TEH ATHIRA YUSOF AND
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MALAYSIA had a lower excess mortality rate compared with other countries during the two years of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the low excess mortality rate was

due to the country's response to the pandemic.

Excess mortality is the difference between the number of deaths recorded and the expected number of deaths in a population if the pandemic had not occurred.

Dr Noor Hisham said the increase in excess mortality in the country occurred only during the surge of Covid-19 cases during the Delta variant wave around July and August last year.

He said action by the Health Ministry in the early stages of Covid-19 transmission, between March 2020 to July 2021, had been well-executed.

The government had also enforced the Movement Control Or-

der (MCO) on March 18, 2020, to prevent rapid transmission of the coronavirus.

"What we are seeing is the full compliance with the standard operating procedures that is essential from the public, not just having a full lockdown.

"Secondly, during the surge of Covid-19 Delta variant cases in July and August last year, we were conducting a more enhanced vaccination coverage in the Klang Valley, and it was able to control Delta variant transmissions and cases dropped quickly.

"This is better than what the World Health Organisation (WHO) had projected.

"This shows that with high vac-

cination coverage we can control Covid-19 transmission."

Dr Noor Hisham said the United Kingdom, which has a population double of Malaysia's, had almost 140,000 Covid-19 deaths compared with around 35,000 in Malaysia.

He was speaking at the Excess Mortality During Covid-19 Pandemic in Malaysia webinar with the media yesterday.

Present were Institute of Clinical Research director Dr Kalalarasu Pearlaramy and head of research at the Institute of Public Health Dr Shubash Shander Ganapathy.

Dr Shubash said data showed that Malaysia had fewer deaths compared with expected deaths between March 2020 and June 2021, at 19,099.

But the number of deaths spiked between July and Decem-

ber 2021, at the peak of the Delta wave, to 27,013.

"As a whole, from March 2020 to December 2021, Malaysia had +7,914 deaths.

"Based on the trend, the expected deaths was almost the same as the WHO's prediction, which was +7,692. What's important is that it showed a negative trend in the beginning of the pandemic and only rose during the Delta wave in mid-2021."

Malaysia recorded 4,006 Covid-19 cases on Sunday, continuing a downtrend of infections.

This pushed the Covid-19 tally to 4,431,073.

Most of the patients, 99.4 per cent or 3,982 people of the total cases, were in Categories 1 and 2, while the remaining 0.6 per cent (24 patients) were in Categories 3 to 5.

Factors behind higher Covid death rate among Malays

KUALA LUMPUR: The excess mortality rate among Malays was higher compared with the Chinese during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr Shubash Shander Ganapathy, who heads the Institute of Public Health's research centre, said this was due to a lower prevalence of non-communicable disease (NCD) risk factors and better health practices among the Chinese.

Dr Shubash said 11,158 extra fatalities were logged among Malays compared with -4,054 in excess mortality among Chinese, followed by Indians at -565, and others at +1,375.

"Why there is a huge difference between the Malays and Chinese can be based on the National Health Morbidity Survey 2019, where the Chinese community reported a higher level of health literacy throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The obesity rate and NCDs, such as diabetes and hypertension, among the Chinese were also lower," he said at the Excess Mortality During Covid-19 Pandemic in Malaysia webinar yesterday.

Dr Shubash said the Chinese were very compliant of the three Ws (wash, wear and warn) as suggested by the Health Ministry to lower the Covid-19 transmission among the public.

He said the early stages of the pandemic in mid-2020 saw high compliance among Malays, Chinese and Indians.

"Compliance among Malays of the 3Ws dropped from 96 per cent in mid-2020 to 74.7 per cent in early 2021. It was the same among Indians, from 94.3 per cent to 74.7 per cent in the same period.

"Only the Chinese remained high even with a drop from 95.6 per cent to 84.8 per cent."

Dr Shubash said the analysis of excess mortality in Malaysia showed that between March 2020 and June 2021, there were fewer cases coming into hospitals, which resulted in fewer deaths in hospitals. He said the number of deaths outside of hospitals showed no increase.

Dr Shubash said from July to December last year, there was an increase in deaths occurring in and outside of hospitals.

"The final numbers show that almost 55 per cent of excess deaths occurred in hospitals, compared with 45 per cent of excess deaths outside hospitals.

"This is the same percentage of deaths recorded in and outside hospitals, prior to Covid-19 in Malaysia. This indicates that there has been no change in the pattern of seeking healthcare services, and being able to obtain these services in Malaysia throughout the pandemic."



Undertakers in personal protective equipment burying a Covid-19 victim at the Setali Muslim cemetery in Kuantan in February this year. FILE PIC

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NATION

Surge in cases possible

DG warns of slight increase in Covid-19 infections after Raya

By RAHIMY RAHIM
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PETALING JAYA: There could be a slight increase in Covid-19 cases after the Hari Raya celebration, warns Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

These infections, he said, would mostly involve cases under Category One and Two.

"Although we expect that there could be a slight surge in cases after

the Hari Raya celebration, the infections will likely be in the early stages or in Category 1 and 2," he said during a media briefing yesterday.

However, he also said that much would depend on the individual concerned.

"We need to take care of ourselves.

"We need to take care of our families and also the country from the spread of Covid-19.

"God willing, we will be protected by Allah so that we can safely celebrate in our kampung," he said.

Malaysia's Covid-19 daily cases is on a declining trend in the past week, hovering around the 5,000 mark.

Dr Noor Hisham reminded Malaysians to continue observing all the standard operating procedures despite the easing of some restrictions by the government.

"We hope there will be no misuse

(by the people)," he said, referring to the easing of restrictions.

He urged those travelling back to their hometown for Hari Raya to undergo a Covid-19 self-test.

Those who have yet to get their vaccination should do so at the nearest clinic and healthcare centre, he said.

"If there any signs of serious symptoms, please go to the nearest hospital so you can get the best treatment," he added.

MOH to announce further easing of SOP tomorrow

KAJANG: Further easing of the Covid-19 standard operating procedure will be announced tomorrow, says Khairy Jamaluddin.

"The Ministry of Health has discussed the matter thoroughly and we will table it before the Cabinet this Wednesday.

"We will make an announcement if it is approved," the Health Minister told reporters after launching the Cegar 18 anti-smoking generational end game event at SMK Bandar Seri Putra here yesterday.

Khairy said the ministry is being very careful in the matter to ensure safety before any decision is made.

"We do not want to take a wrong step as we have been managing the pandemic well.

"The number of infections is going down and the pressure on the hospitals has eased.

"So, we don't want to make a mistake in whatever relaxation of the SOP to ensure it is safely and carefully done," he added.

The government has gradually relaxed the Covid-19 SOP following the transition towards endemicity beginning April 1.

On a related issue, Khairy said a total of 1,939 individuals had received their second booster dose.

"Those who took their fourth dose were mainly walk-ins at the vaccine administering centres (PFV) and included the elderly with comorbidities," he added.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



Cases in Sabah drop below 50

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Covid-19 cases dropped to below 50 yesterday, registering 48 infections compared to 60 the day before.

State Covid-19 spokesperson Datuk Masidi Manjun said this is the lowest daily figure recorded since March 30, last year.

"All districts are seeing stabilising cases with minimal changes to the figure of their daily cases.

"Only Kota Kinabalu recorded double-digit infections at 21 cases, while the rest of the districts reported new cases below five.

"There are no new infections (zero cases) at 11 districts," he said.

Masidi attributed the low cases to the effectiveness of the vaccines among Sabah folks, as well as high standard operating procedure (SOP) compliance practised.

"It is hoped this highly disciplined culture is maintained, especially when we celebrate Hari Raya soon," he added.

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEW WITHOUT BORDERS

Cause of Kawasaki disease still unknown

► Expert says parents need not be concerned about outbreak as infection cannot spread from one child to another

BY SURAYA ALI
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SHAH ALAM: Having barely entered the transition to endemic phase of Covid-19, Malaysians are now witnessing more reports on Kawasaki disease.

Paediatrician and neonatologist Dr Masri Muhamed told *theSun* that the exact cause of the disease is unknown.

"However, some suggest it might be linked to genes, viruses, bacteria, or other factors, such as chemicals and irritants," he said.

Masri added the public should

not be too worried as Kawasaki disease is not contagious and is not able to spread from one child to another.

Masri, who is a senior lecturer at the UiTM Faculty of Medicine and Hospital in Puncak Alam, said some of the symptoms of Kawasaki disease are fever for about five days, rashes, reddish and swollen extremities and reddish cracked lips.

"Other symptoms include peeling skin on hands and feet, 'strawberry' tongue (white coating with red bumps on the tongue) and

exudative conjunctivitis (redness of the eyes)."

Masri said the Kawasaki disease has a 2% recurrence rate, which makes it highly unlikely to recur in a patient.

He added that based on a registry between 2006 and 2019 in southern Malaysia, the incidence of Kawasaki disease in children of less than five years was 14.8 per 100,000 population.

"The incidence in children aged between five and nine was 1.3 per 100,000 population and has remained stable over time," he said.

Parents are advised to seek treatment immediately at the nearest medical centre if their child shows symptoms.

"Early treatment can help lower long-term risks," Masri said.

He added that most children recover completely and have no

lasting problems.

However, in rare cases, children have been reported to contract vasculitis, dysrhythmia, myocardial infarction, myocarditis and mitral regurgitation.

"These conditions may lead to other problems, such as aneurysms as well as increasing the child's risk of artery blockages."

Masri said diagnoses are made based on symptoms and clinical signs.

For example, echocardiography

can help heart diagnosis to identify aneurysms and blood findings.

Recently, celebrities Amar Baharin and Amyra Rosli said their two-year-old daughter was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease.

More parents have come forward on social media to share that their children have been diagnosed with the disease.

705,864 children fully vaccinated

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 705,864 children aged five to 11 or 19.9% of their population have been fully vaccinated under the National Covid-19

Immunisation Programme for Children as of Sunday.

Based on the CovidNOW website, a total of 1,488,811 children in the same group, or 42%, have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

For adolescents aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,886,817 or 92.8% have completed their vaccination, while 2,966,324 or 96% have received at least one dose.

A total of 16,009,979 adults or 68% of their population have received their booster shots while 22,964,189 or 97.6% have completed their vaccination and 23,241,082 or 98.8% received at least one dose.

A total of 52,712 vaccine doses were dispensed on Sunday, comprising 11,918 first doses, 11,918 second doses and 2,820 booster shots, bringing the cumulative number of doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme to 70,070,020.

According to the Health Ministry's GifHub portal, eight Covid-19 related deaths were reported on Sunday.

Selangor recorded the highest with two cases, followed by Johor, Malacca, Pahang, Sarawak, Terengganu and Kuala Lumpur with one case each. - Bernama

4,006 new cases as of Sunday

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 4,006 new Covid-19 cases were recorded as of Sunday with 32.15% in category one and 67.25% in category two.

Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said of the total, 12 cases or 0.30% were in category three, while categories four and five each recorded six cases or 0.15%.

Of the total 24 cases in the higher categories, eight were not vaccinated or had not been fully vaccinated, nine were fully vaccinated but had not received the booster dose, while seven had received booster dose.

Nine of the 24 cases were aged 60 and above while 12 had comorbidities.

The new cases bring the tally to 4,431,073.

One new cluster was reported on Sunday, bringing the total number of active clusters to 97.

A total of 165 patients were admitted to hospitals on Sunday with 91 in categories one and two while 74 in categories three, four and five.

The number of recovered cases was 10,223, bringing cumulative cases to 4,320,822.

Noor Hisham said the Covid-19 infectivity rate (Rt value) on Sunday was 0.77 with Putrajaya recording the highest rate of 1.15. - Bernama

Teen anti-smoking bill to be tabled in July

KAJANG: The draft bill to ban smoking among those born in 2005 and after is in the final stages of review by the Attorney-General's Chambers and is expected to be tabled in Parliament in July.

Health Minister Khairy Kamaluddin said several rounds of engagement, including with the cigarette industry, had been held to gather feedback from all quarters before the bill was finalised.

He was speaking at the launch of the Generational End Game Anti-Rokok 18 (Gegar-18) at SMK Bandar Seri Putra here yesterday. Also present was Senior Education Minister Datuk Dr Radzi Md Jidin.

Khairy said under the proposed Act, children born in 2005 and subsequent years are prohibited from smoking and buying or possessing any type of smoking products, including electronic cigarettes or vape products, after reaching 18 years old.

Shopkeepers and cigarette vendors are also not allowed to sell smoking products to those covered by the ban.

Khairy said a study had begun among Form Four and Form Five students throughout the country to gauge their opinion on the matter.

He added that the initiative was also aimed at getting students, who are non-smokers, to stay away from cigarettes, while those who have picked up the habit, to quit smoking.



Mohd Radzi (right) and Khairy with students at the launch of Gegar-18 yesterday. - BERNAMAPIX

"We will also implement control on advertisements promoting vape products, including on social media," he said.

Speaking after the launch, Khairy

said the Health Ministry had deliberated carefully on the move to relax several standard operating procedures.

"The ministry has discussed the

matter thoroughly and we will present it to the Cabinet on Wednesday.

"If approved, we will announce it," he said. - Bernama

Zoonotic malaria a new serious threat

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is facing a new serious threat in the form of zoonotic malaria infections.

Health Minister Khairy Kamaluddin said zoonotic malaria infections in the country had increased drastically from 376 cases in 2008 to 3,575 in 2021, and emerged as the leading cause of malaria deaths since 2017.

"Zoonotic malaria is caused by the *plasmodium knowlesi* parasite and it is transmitted between animals (apes/monkeys) and humans through mosquito vectors.

"In contrast to human malaria, the spread of zoonotic malaria infections frequently occurs outdoors," he said in conjunction with the national Malaria

Day celebrations yesterday.

Khairy said the increase in cases was due to aggressive land clearing for farming, which increased human-animal exposure. Animals are the natural hosts for zoonotic malaria.

"Currently, existing malaria treatments are effective for zoonotic malaria. The challenge facing the Health Ministry is tackling the infections as we lack effective vector control methods to curb transmission outside the home.

"Those with fever, have entered an area at risk, or have just returned from malaria-endemic countries, should seek immediate treatment at health facilities. Workers in plantation and

forestry sectors need to undergo regular malaria screening."

Meanwhile, Khairy said Malaysia achieved a record of zero indigenous human malaria cases for four consecutive years from 2018 to 2021.

He attributed the success to the ministry's strategies and innovations, including the use of Artemisinin Combination Therapy, residual insecticide spraying, and the use of medicated mosquito nets.

However, Khairy said Malaysia is still exposed to the risk of human malaria infections among newly arrived foreign workers, as the country reported 111 imported human malaria cases last year.

"To address this threat, the ministry has begun screenings for malaria at selected entry points and mapping areas, as well as implementing preventive interventions, including vector-control activities.

"The ministry has also identified risky sectors such as plantations and forestry to focus on the implementation of malaria surveillance activities," he said.

The theme of the World Malaria Day celebration this year is "Harness Innovation to Reduce the Malaria Disease Burden and Save Lives". It is celebrated each year on April 25 in recognition of the global efforts in controlling malaria. - Bernama