

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Malaysia-Singapura benar semula rentas sempadan

Dua negara sependapat situasi COVID-19 kini dalam fasa stabil

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Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia dan Singapura semalam, mencapai persetujuan untuk kembali membenarkan perjalanan rentas sempadan antara kedua-dua negara.

Menteri Kesihatan, Khairy Jamaluddin, ketika mengumumkan langkah itu, berkata kedua-dua negara turut sependapat bahawa situasi COVID-19 di negara masing-masing kini berada dalam fasa yang stabil.

Sehubungan itu, katanya, perkembangan sedemikian menjadi pemangkin ke arah kesepakatan antara Malaysia dan Singapura mengenai pembukaan semula sempadan negara, menerusi kaedah yang selamat.

"Menteri (Kesihatan Singapura) Ong Ye Kung dan saya mengadakan perbincangan yang



Khairy mengadakan mesyuarat dua hala bersama Ye Kung di Putrajaya, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

amat baik mengenai situasi pandemik di negara masing-masing.

"Kita bersetuju bahawa situasi sudah stabil dan kini Malaysia-Singapura boleh merintis usaha ke arah membenarkan semula pergerakan rentas sempadan untuk individu yang lengkap vaksinasi, menerusi udara dan darat, dalam tempoh secepat mungkin," katanya menerusi kenyataan di Twitter selepas

pertemuan itu semalam.

Turut serta dalam pertemuan itu termasuk Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah dan pengurusan tertinggi Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

Kunjungan Ye Kung ke KKM di Putrajaya, turut disertai Pesuruhjaya Tinggi Singapura di Malaysia, Vanu Gopala Menon dan Setiausaha Tetap Kement-

rian Kesihatan Singapura, Chan Yeng Kit.

Ye Kung ketika ini sedang mengadakan lawatan kerja rasmi selama tiga hari mulai semalam, susulan jemputan daripada Khairy.

Menteri Kesihatan Singapura itu turut dijadual mengadakan kunjungan rasmi ke Institut Kesihatan Negara (NIH), di Setia Alam, hari ini.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

KKM akui doktor kontrak dipancing pihak luar

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengakui ada doktor muda kontrak yang berkhidmat di fasiliti kerajaan 'dipancing' pihak swasta dan luar negara dengan tawaran lebih baik.

Timbalan Menteri, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali, berkata tawaran dikemukakan pihak berkenaan membuatkan kerajaan tidak mampu menandinginya.

Susulan itu, beliau berkata, kerajaan juga tidak boleh menghalang mana-mana kakitangan KKM seperti doktor untuk menerima tawaran berkenaan.

"Yang pertama, kerajaan memang prihatin mengenai masalah dihadapi doktor muda kita. Bagaimanapun, kerajaan mempunyai kekangan terutama dalam masalah kewangan dan tidak dapat menandingi tawaran yang mungkin disediakan pihak swasta dan serta negara.

"Kerajaan juga tidak boleh menghalang ataupun memaksa sesiapa atau mana-mana doktor

untuk bertugas dengan KKM. Jadi ini bergantung kepada pendirian doktor berkenaan. Di pihak kerajaan sentiasa mencari jalan untuk menyelesaikan masalah kontrak ini," katanya pada sesi jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Sabri Azit (PAS-Jerai) mengenai punca doktor kontrak meninggalkan KKM.

Menjelaskan mengapa kerajaan menawarkan perjawatan kontrak, Dr Noor Azmi berkata, ia bermula pada 2016 apabila kerajaan mengambil keputusan melaksanakan langkah itu bagi menyelesaikan masalah kebanjiran ramai doktor graduan, selain tidak cukup penempatan.

"Susulan itu, kita tak mahu menunggu begitu lama kerana doktor muda ini terpaksa menunggu sehingga lebih setahun sebelum memulakan latihan siswazah.

"Jadi, kaedah kontrak ini dilakukan untuk menyelesaikan masalah ketika itu," katanya.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 15
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

ProtectHealth, TERAJU meterai MoU perluas PeKa B40

Kuala Lumpur: ProtectHealth Corporation Sdn Bhd (ProtectHealth) dan TERAJU Bumiputera Corporation (TERAJU) meterai memorandum persefahaman (MoU) bagi mempromosikan kesedaran lebih tinggi mengenai Skim Peduli Kesihatan untuk Kumpulan B40 (PeKa B40).

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif ProtectHealth, Datuk Dr Anas Alam Faizli, berkata melalui kerjasama itu, pihaknya fokus untuk membawa PeKa B40 lebih dekat dan memperluas aksesnya kepada masyarakat di seluruh negara.

"Kejayaan program PeKa B40 terbukti apabila pendekatan *whole-of-government* dan *whole-of-society* Malaysia membuahkan hasil. Kami akan terus membabitkan diri dengan pihak ber-

kepentingan utama lain untuk memastikan tiada yang tertinggal dalam kalangan masyarakat Malaysia mendapatkan apa juga manfaat disediakan.

"Insya-Allah ini juga akan membuka jalan untuk bekerjasama dengan TERAJU dalam bidang strategik lain," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

MoU itu bertujuan memberi platform kepada TERAJU mengenal pasti klinik yang akan menyertai program berkenaan, bagi meningkatkan jangkauan kepada komuniti Bumiputera kumpulan berpendapatan 40 peratus terendah (B40) di seluruh negara.

ProtectHealth pula adalah pentadbir skim penjagaan kesihatan PeKa B40, inisiatif bagi menangani trend penyakit tidak berjangkit (NCD) yang semakin me-

ningkat, khususnya dalam kalangan penduduk berpendapatan rendah dengan matlamat utamanya untuk pengesanan dan intervensi awal NCD.

Melalui program PeKa B40, penerima yang layak boleh mendapat manfaat daripada pemeriksaan kesihatan percuma, bantuan alat perubatan percuma, insentif melengkapkan rawatan kanser serta insentif tambang pengangkutan.

Lebih 567,956 orang daripada kumpulan B40 sudah disaring di bawah PeKa B40, namun seramai 5.9 juta lagi yang layak belum menyertai program berkenaan.

Dr Anas berkata, sangat penting bagi orang ramai sentiasa mengetahui keadaan kesihatan dengan menjalani pemeriksaan secara berkala, terutama ketika pandemik, selain ramai yang di-

jangkiti COVID-19 tidak mengetahui mereka menghidap penyakit itu.

"Jangan kita lupa walaupun sedang memasuki fasa peralihan endemik COVID-19, antara isu utama dan berterusan dalam kalangan masyarakat adalah dalam memupuk tingkah laku mencari kesihatan dan mengekalkan gaya hidup sihat."

"Kerjasama strategik antara ProtectHealth dan TERAJU ini juga bertindak sebagai pemangkin dalam memacu negara ke arah kehidupan lebih sihat. NCD sentiasa menjadi antara ketakutan terbesar dalam masyarakat, dan program PeKa B40 akan menggalakkan pengesanan dan intervensi awal," katanya.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif TERAJU, Md Silmi Abd Rahman, menyifatkan MoU

itu sebagai contoh terbaik dengan sistem penyampaian kerajaan dapat diperluas kepada semua lapisan melalui ekosistem TERAJU kepada komuniti B40 Bumiputera yang kurang berkeupayaan.

"Di Sabah sahaja, program PeKa B40 ini dianggarkan akan memberi manfaat kepada lebih 400,000 Bumiputera di beberapa daerah di wilayah ini manakala di Sarawak pula, dianggarkan seramai 480,000 orang bakal mendapat manfaat dari program ini.

"TERAJU akan terus memberi penekanan kepada inisiatif keselamatan sosial ini ke negeri lain dan menjadikannya sebahagian dari program libat urus kami selaku agensi penyelaras utama di samping membantu meningkatkan status ekonomi Bumiputera," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : LOKAL

KKM akui doktor muda 'dipancing'

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) mengakui ada doktor muda kontrak yang berkhidmat di fasiliti kerajaan 'dipancing' pihak swasta dan luar negara dengan tawaran gaji lebih baik.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan I, Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, tawaran yang dikemukakan pihak berkenaan membuatkan kerajaan tidak mampu menandinginya.

Katanya, kerajaan tidak boleh menghalang mana-mana kakitangan KKM seperti doktor untuk menerima tawaran itu.

"Yang pertama, kerajaan memang prihatin tentang masalah dihadapi oleh doktor muda. Bagaimanapun, kerajaan mempunyai keangan terutama dalam masalah kewangan dan tidak dapat menandingi tawaran yang mungkin disediakan oleh pihak swasta dan luar

negara," katanya.

"Kerajaan juga tidak boleh menghalang ataupun memaksa sesiapa atau mana-mana doktor untuk bertugas dengan KKM. Jadi ini bergantung kepada pendirian doktor tersebut.

"Di pihak kerajaan sentiasa mencari jalan untuk menyelesaikan masalah (doktor) kontrak ini," katanya pada sesi jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, di sini, semalam.

AKHBAR : KOSMO

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEGARA

21,483 kes Covid-19, 23 kes kematian BID

PUTRAJAYA – Jangkitan Covid-19 kelmarin merekodkan 21,483 kes, menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan kes di Malaysia sebanyak 4,032,435 kes.

Berdasarkan data pada laman web CovidNow, daripada kes yang dilaporkan kelmarin, sebanyak 394 kes adalah kes import yang mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara.

"Kesemua kes tersebut dilaporkan di Selangor (7,452 kes), Kuala Lumpur (3,433 kes), Sarawak (1,547 kes), Pulau Pinang (1,295 kes), Kedah (1,219 kes), Perak (1,170 kes) dan Negeri Sembilan (1,061 kes).

"Seterusnya, Pahang (959 kes), Johor (927 kes), Kelantan (609 kes), Terengganu (584 kes), Melaka (536 kes), Sabah (402

kes), Perlis (131 kes), Labuan (93 kes) dan Putrajaya (65 kes)," demikian maklumat tersebut di sini semalam.

Dalam masa sama, sebanyak 73 kes kematian Covid-19 dilaporkan menjadikan jumlah kematian terkini sebanyak 34,535 kes serta sebanyak 23 kes meninggal dunia di luar hospital atau *brought in death* (BID) dengan jumlah kes BID sebanyak 7,199 kes.

Sebanyak 252,671 kes aktif dilaporkan melibatkan 244,262 kes dikuarantin di rumah, 1,453 kes di Pusat Kuarantin dan Rawatan Covid-19, 6,617 kes di hospital, 130 kes di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) tanpa bantuan pernafasan dan 209 kes di ICU dengan bantuan pernafasan.



SEORANG peniaga sedang sibuk menyusun baju raya sebagai persiapan jualan menjelang Ramadan ini di Kompleks PKNS, Shah Alam, Selangor semalam. – ZULFADHLI ZAKI

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 23

RUANGAN : SINAR NEGERI

Mukim Klang catat kes Covid-19 tertinggi di Selangor

SHAH ALAM - Mukim Klang mencatatkan kes tertinggi Covid-19 di Selangor dengan 2,111 kes setakat jam 11.59 malam Selasa.

Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor (JKNS) dalam satu hantaran di Facebook pada Rabu berkata jumlah itu adalah sebahagian daripada 7,452 kes di Selangor pada hari yang

sama.

Menurut hantaran tersebut, jumlah itu meliputi 7,391 kes komuniti, 14 kes di penjara dan 47 kes import A.

"Berdasarkan jumlah kes Covid-19 di mukim Klang, daerah Klang merekodkan kes tertinggi dengan 1,538 kes, diikuti Kapar (558 kes) membabitkan 15 kes import.

"Mukim kedua mencatatkan kes Covid-19 tertinggi pada Selasa ialah Hulu Langat dengan 1,703 kes, diikuti Petaling (1,296), Gombak (1,050), Kuala Langat (643), Kuala Selangor (338) dan Sepang (170).

"Selain itu, mukim Hulu Selangor mencatatkan 116 kes manakala Sabak Bernam pula merekodkan 15 kes," katanya.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Isu Sinovac: Kerajaan diminta beri penjelasan

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PETALING JAYA: Status penerimaan vaksin Sinovac di negara-negara Kesatuan Eropah (EU) bagi rakyat di negara ini perlu dijelaskan secara terperinci menjelang pembukaan pintu sempadan 1 April ini.

Bekas Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Dr. Lee Boon Chye berkata, isu tersebut juga perlu diperhalusi secara adil termasuk melibatkan kemasukan rakyat dari mana-mana negara yang tidak mengiktiraf vaksin Sinovac.

Selain itu katanya, kerajaan dalam masa yang sama perlu mengadakan pertemuan pelbagai negara termasuk EU bagi mengeluarkan sijil vaksinasi yang diperakui secara bersama.

"Sepatutnya penerimaan vaksin di Malaysia tidak menjadi masalah kerana ia diiktiraf Pertubuhan Kesihatan Dunia (WHO).

"Namun pengesahan sijil vaksin perlu usaha bersama di peringkat antarabangsa sebagaimana Malaysia dan Vietnam yang mengiktiraf vaksin secara timbal balas," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* semalam.

Dalam laporan *Utusan Malaysia* kelmarin dianggarkan lebih 10 juta penerima vaksin Sinovac di negara ini berisiko tinggi di



SUNTIKAN vaksin Sinovac dikatakan tidak diiktiraf oleh beberapa negara di Eropah berbanding jenama lain.
-UTUSAN/RASUL AZLI SAMAD

sekat dari memasuki mana-mana 27 negara anggota EU selepas dikatakan tidak diiktiraf Agensi Perubatan Eropah (EMA).

Ia susulan dua beradik yang menerima suntikan primer Sinovac sebelum ini diusir pulang tanah air dari Jerman selepas vaksin berkenaan tidak mendapat pentauliahn EMA.

Tambah Boon Chye, pengiktirafan secara timbal balas mampu menyelesaikan masalah ini yang membabitkan Malaysia dan negara lain.

Dalam perkembangan, Presiden Majlis Pelancongan Malaysia (MTC), Uzaidi Udanis berkata, setakat ini, pihaknya masih tidak menerima sebarang pembatalan

tempahan percutian ke Eropah gara-gara sijil vaksinasi berkenaan.

"Setakat ini masih tiada kesan yang teruk impak isu sijil vaksinasi berkenaan termasuk pembatalan tempahan ke negara Eropah. Semuanya berjalan lancar. Tapi tidak pasti dalam tempoh terdekat ini," jelasnya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

209 perlu ventilator

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Kuala Lumpur

Kes positif harian Covid-19 negara kembali mencatatkan peningkatan apabila 21,483 kes direkodkan, kelmarin berbanding 17,828 kes pada Isnin lalu sekali gus menjadikan 4,032,435 kes kumulatif.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, daripada jumlah kes baharu itu, 21,089 kes membabitkan penularan tempatan manakala 394 kes import lagi mendapat jangkitan dari luar negara.

Katanya, 10,455 kes atau 48.67 peratus membabitkan



32,561 kes sembuh dilaporkan kelmarin, menjadikan kes sembuh kumulatif sebanyak 3,745,229

Dr Noor Hisham

kategori satu manakala 10,862 kes (50.56 peratus) pula daripada kategori dua.

"Sebanyak 57 kes (0.27 peratus) berada dalam kategori tiga diikuti 46 kes (0.21 peratus) dalam kategori empat dan 63 kes pula (0.29 peratus) bagi kategori lima.

"Daripada 166 kes membabitkan kategori tiga, empat dan lima, 51 kes tidak divaksinasi atau belum lengkap

divaksinasi, 64 kes sudah menerima dua dos vaksin tetapi belum menerima dos penggalak dan 51 kes menerima dos penggalak.

"Sebanyak 91 kes berusia 60 tahun dan ke atas, 96 kes mempunyai komorbid dan dua kes membabitkan ibu mengandung," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Sementara itu, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, 32,561 kes sembuh dilaporkan kelmarin, menjadikan kes sembuh kumulatif sebanyak 3,745,229.

Beliau berkata, 339 kes memerlukan rawatan di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dan 209 kes memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan.

"Pesakit Covid-19 memerlukan alat bantuan pernafasan (ventilator) meningkat kepada 209 pesakit

dengan peratusan penggunaan ventilator 24 peratus," katanya.

Menurut Dr Noor Hisham, tiga negeri menunjukkan peratusan pengisalan katil kes kritikal atau ICU lebih 50 peratus membabitkan Kuala Lumpur (70 peratus), Johor (62 Peratus) dan Selangor (60 peratus).

Katanya, negara mencatatkan nilai kadar kebole-hangkitan (Rt) Covid-19 sebanyak 0.91 dengan Sarawak mencatatkan Rt tertinggi iaitu 1.01 diikuti Perak dengan 1.00.

Beliau juga memaklumkan negara merekodkan empat kluster baharu 'menjadi' 6,918 kluster secara keseluruhan dengan 284 kluster masih aktif dan 6,634 kluster ditamatkan.

73 kes kematian akibat koronavirus

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 1,272,121 individu atau 35.8 peratus populasi kanak-kanak berusia lima hingga 11 di Malaysia menerima dos pertama vaksin Covid-19 menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICKids) setakat kelmarin.

Berdasarkan data menerusi laman web Covidnow, bagi remaja 12 hingga 17, sejumlah 2,845,415 individu atau 91.5 peratus daripada kumpulan itu melengkapkan vaksinasi mereka manakala 2,943,210 atau 94.6 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya satu dos vaksin.

Sejumlah 15,530,830 individu atau 66 peratus populasi dewasa di dalam negara menerima dos penggalak dan 22,945,101 atau 97.5 peratus lengkap vaksinasi manakala 23,221,040 atau 98.7 peratus menerima sekurang-kurangnya

satu dos vaksin.

Sebanyak 28,377 dos vaksin diberi kelmarin membabitkan 5,645 suntikan pertama, 1,357 suntikan lengkap dan 21,375 suntikan dos penggalak menjadikan jumlah kumulatif pemberian vaksin menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) meningkat kepada 68,546,897 dos.

Sementara itu, menurut portal GitHub Kementerian Kesihatan, 73 kes kematian akibat Covid-19 direkodkan semalam dengan Perak merekodkan kematian tertinggi sebanyak 19 kes diikuti Selangor dan Johor masing-masing dengan 11 kes.

Kedah merekodkan sembilan kes, Pulau Pinang (lapan), masing-masing tiga kes di Kelantan, Melaka, Sabah dan Terengganu manakala Negeri Sembilan, Perlis dan Sarawak masing-masing satu kes.

Perjuangan diteruskan



JURURAWAT membawa mesin bantuan pernafasan untuk pesakit kanser yang dijangkiti Covid-19 di wad Covid-19 di Institut Kanser Negara (IKN) Putrajaya. - Gambar NSTP/MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

KADAR VAKSINASI KANAK-KANAK DI SARAWAK

Hampir 70% sudah terima dos pertama

Kuala Lumpur: Sarawak mencatat peratusan vaksinasi kanak-kanak tertinggi dengan hampir 70 peratus mereka yang berusia lima hingga 11 sudah melengkapkan dos pertama menerusi Program Imunisasi Covid-19 Kebangsaan (PICKids) setakat ini.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali berkata, pencapaian itu diperoleh hasil usaha kerajaan negeri yang bersungguh membuat lawatan ke sekolah dan pusat pemberian vaksin (PPV) untuk memberi suntikan vaksin Covid-19 kepada kanak-kanak yang tidak mendaftar dalam MySejahtera.

"Walaupun di Semenanjung kita guna kaedah janji

temu, tempahan dan off-site, tapi keadaan di Sarawak berlainan. Kalau lihat data dalam Covidnow inilah yang terbaik.

"Malah saya buat lawatan ke Sarawak pada 9 dan 10 Februari lalu dan melihat sendiri komitmen mereka menjalankan kerja," katanya pada persidangan Dewan Rakyat di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian menjawab soalan tambahan Ahmad Johnie Zawawi (GPS-Igan) yang ingin tahu sama ada pelaksanaan PICKids tanpa janji temu diperluas ke semua PPV termasuk kawasan luar bandar dan pesisir Sarawak bagi memastikan anak-anak mendapat akses lebih mudah kepada vaksin.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 7

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

HEALTH MINISTRY STATEMENT

**'IGNORE
MYSEJAHTERA
GLITCH'**

Those under 18 have purportedly received booster shot appointments

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A TECHNICAL error was detected in MySejahtera where teenagers under 18 had apparently received booster shot vaccination appointments recently.

Individuals who already received their booster shot were also alleged to have received appointments as well.

As per the Health Ministry's advisory, the booster shot is only for adults aged 18 and above, and there are no additional booster shots, also known as the fourth dose at the moment.

The Health Ministry issued a statement yesterday for those

who already received their booster shots, and also parents of children who received booster shot appointments, to ignore the MySejahtera notification.

"Those who have accepted the appointments may cancel it and are not required to appear at the vaccination centres.

"MySejahtera technical team is rectifying the issue and apologises for any difficulties arising from the problem."

A total 68,546,897 vaccine doses were administered nationwide.

A total 66 per cent of adults have received their booster shots, 91.5 per cent teenagers have completed their vaccinations, and 35.8 per cent of children aged 5 to 11 have received their first dose of the vaccine.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

PROMOTING AWARENESS OF HEALTHCARE SCHEMES

ProtectHealth signs MoU for PeKa B40 programmes

KUALA LUMPUR: ProtectHealth Corporation, a non-profit company under the Health Ministry, and Teraju Bumiputera Corporation (Teraju) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote greater awareness of healthcare schemes for the B40 Group (PeKa B40).

ProtectHealth, the healthcare scheme administrator for PeKa B40, is taking the initiative to address the growing trend of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly among the lower income groups.

The ultimate goal for PeKa B40 is to ensure early detection and intervention for NCDs.

With the cost of healthcare soaring due to many factors, one of the most affected groups is the B40.

Through the PeKa B40 programme, eligible recipients can get benefits from free health checks, medical device assistance, incentives, complete cancer treatment with transportation fare incentives.

ProtectHealth is the first organisation in the country to buy services from both public and private healthcare providers and have generated huge cost savings for the government.

ProtectHealth chief executive officer (CEO), Dr Anas Alam Fai-

zli, said their focus was to bring the PeKa B40 closer to the community through cooperation with Teraju, and expand the PeKa B40 programme nationwide.

"Teraju, as our strategic partner, will improve our network in reaching out to more eligible beneficiaries to enjoy the benefits of PeKa B40. It will also pave the way for cooperation with Teraju in other strategic areas.

"We will continue to engage with the relevant parties and other key stakeholders to ensure that no one is left out and Malaysians enjoy whatever benefits we provide," he said.

Meanwhile, Teraju CEO, Md Sil-

mi Abd Rahman, said the understanding signed yesterday with ProtectHealth was one of the best examples of the government's delivery system that can be extended to all layers through the ecosystem.

"The PeKa B40 programme is estimated to benefit more than 400,000 Bumiputeras in some areas of Sabah and in Sarawak. An estimated 480,000 people will benefit from the programme," he said.

More than 567,956 people from the B40 group were screened under the PeKa B40 programme, but there are still 5.9 million Malaysians eligible and have not

yet joined the PeKa B40 programme.

"Many infected with Covid-19 do not know that they have non-communicable diseases.

"Therefore, it is important that one always know one's health status with regular checks, especially during this outbreak. Let's not forget that though we are entering the Covid-19 endemic transition phase, one of the major and ongoing issues in society is in fostering health-seeking behaviour and maintaining a healthy lifestyle," Dr Anas added.

For details on PeKa B40 and eligibility for the programme, visit www.PekaB40.com.my

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

Illegal abortion pills sold online

Health Ministry, doctors warn against using products without prescription

By RAGANANTHINI
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PETALING JAYA: Illegal abortion pills are being openly sold on e-commerce websites despite the Health Ministry's repeated warnings on such unauthorised products.

The *Star* found that pills such as Mifepristone, which are not permitted for sale in Malaysia, are being pitched on popular online shopping sites for RM169.90 for a strip of five. There are several options being sold at different price points.

The promotional literature claims the product's original price is RM449 and it is being sold at a discounted rate. It further claims that the pills are safe and effective.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said that

such pills are not registered for sale in Malaysia.

"Mifepristone has not been registered here at all. As for Misoprostol ... that we have deregistered," he said when contacted.

He also warned that it is dangerous to consume abortion pills without a prescription and worse if there are side effects.

"These sold online are dangerous. And illegal as they are not registered locally," he said.

Dr Noor Hashim added that the Pharmacy Enforcement Division will take the necessary action. The sellers claim that the pills can be used for pregnancy under 59 days and it takes five pills to see results.

"So five tablet must finish - 24 hours later you can see the results," the product description reads.

According to the website, more

than 100 of these boxes have been sold.

As for the testimonials, some alleged users claim they started to see the results as quickly as 20 minutes. They also suggest that those who cannot bear pain to have painkillers or paracetamol on standby.

There were others who however say the pill did not work for them.

Medical practitioners said such drugs are not for self-consumption or over-the-counter sales. Abortion, they said, must be done under strict monitoring by an obstetrician.

"It comes with a lot of side effects and this is not for the public," a doctor said on condition of anonymity.

Obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr Milton Lum said the use of Mifepristone is safe only when it is taken under medical supervision, adding that the pill has been

endorsed for use in "medical abortion" by international organisations such as the World Health Organisation, International Federation of Gynaecology and International Planned Parenthood Federation.

"Its risks include infection, bleeding, uterine rupture. Toxic shock is potentially fatal," said the past president of the Federation of Private Medical Practitioners' Associations and the Malaysian Medical Association.

The more important issue, Dr Lum said, is unsafe abortion with its risks of infection, bleeding and trauma to internal organs including uterine rupture.

He cautioned women against self-medicating to terminate unwanted pregnancies.

"If you have an unwanted pregnancy, have a discussion with your

doctor. Do not self-medicate," he urged strongly.

He said government agencies have a duty to track and block online sellers and confiscate individual packages as the pill is not licensed for use in Malaysia.

However, he noted that clampdowns may be difficult and impractical.

"The more practical approach is to license Mifepristone for use by doctors. Policies on reproductive health should not be based on religious or political sensitivities," he said.

According to Section 312 of the Penal Code, a pregnancy can only be terminated when a registered medical practitioner views the continuance of the pregnancy may pose a risk to the mother's life or cause injury to their physical or mental health.

MySejahtera glitch sending out wrong booster appointments

PUTRAJAYA: Adolescents who have received appointments for booster shots via MySejahtera have been told to ignore them.

Similarly, adults who have received their third dose but have been given a date for their booster shot need not fulfil the appointment. The Health Ministry's MySejahtera unit said there was a

technical issue involving the system, which had given out appointments automatically according to the different types of vaccines' time gap.

"Because of this, the system had issued appointment dates for booster shots to adolescents, or those aged 17 and below, as well as to adults who have already received

their booster.

"It is the ministry's policy that booster shots are only given to those who are 18 and above. And no second booster or fourth dose be administered to the public," it said in a statement yesterday.

It advised those who had confirmed appointments for their booster or fourth dose through a

link sent via MySejahtera to cancel them.

"They need not come to vaccination centres and the vaccination centres (PPV) have been informed of the matter. They will decline giving booster shots to adolescents and also will not fulfil appointments for the second booster shot for adult individuals."

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

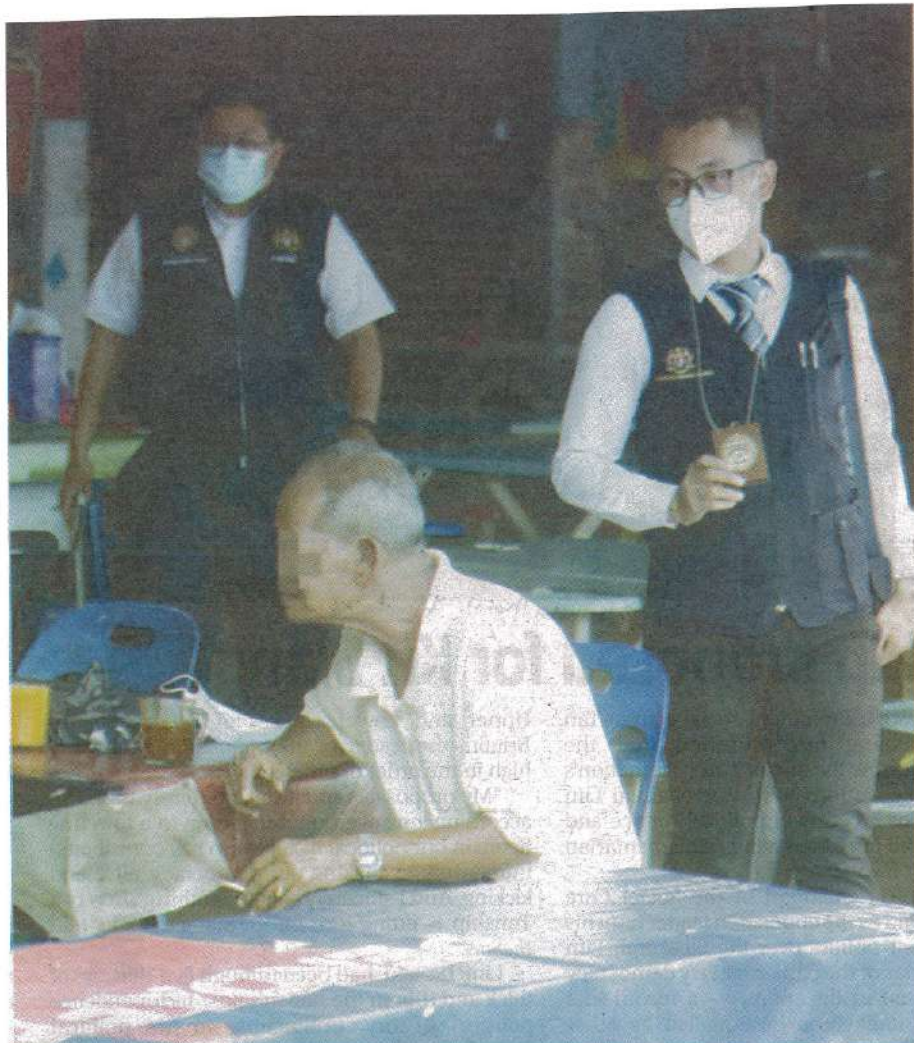


OFFICIAL VISIT ... Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin with his Singapore counterpart Ong Ye Kung at the Health Ministry in Putrajaya yesterday. — **BERNAMAPIX**

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS



CAUGHT IN THE ACT ... Health Ministry officers issue a compound of RM250 to a senior citizen for smoking in George Town, Penang yesterday. — **MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN**

70% of Sarawak children vaccinated

KUALA LUMPUR: Sarawak has recorded the highest percentage of Covid-19 inoculations for children with almost 70% of the group aged five to 11 having completed the first dose through the National Children's Immunisation Programme so far.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali said the achievement was the result of the state government's efforts to visit schools and vaccination centres to carry out vaccination to children who did not register with MySejahtera.

"Although in the peninsula we use appointments, reservations and also offsite methods, the situation in Sarawak is different. If you look at the data in CovidNOW, this is the best."

"I visited Sarawak on Feb 9 and 10, and saw for myself how diligent and committed everyone is when carrying out their work even though most of the students are not registered with MySejahtera," he told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was replying to a supplementary question from Ahmad Johnie Zawawi (GPS-Igan) who wanted to know whether the programme is extended to rural and coastal areas of Sarawak to ensure children with no appointment would have easier access to vaccines. — Bernama

New Covid cases rise to 21,483

KUALA LUMPUR: After declining to below the 20,000 mark for five consecutive days, the daily new Covid-19 cases increased to 21,483 on Tuesday, said Health Director-General Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Of the total, 1,339 were admitted to hospitals, with 553 or 41.3% involving categories three to five, while 786 or 58.7% comprised categories one and two.

"A total of 32,561 recovered cases were reported, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries to 3,745,229," he said in a statement yesterday.

Meanwhile, three states showed more than 50% usage of intensive care unit beds, namely Kuala Lumpur (70%), Johor (62%) and Selangor (60%).

He said 209 cases required ventilators, with a utilisation rate to 24%.

On the infectivity rate, the R-Naught (Rt) value decreased to 0.91, with Sarawak registering the highest value at 1.01, followed by Perak at 1.00. — Bernama