

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO  
MUKA SURAT : 4  
RUANGAN : LOKAL

## 56.6 peratus wanita Terengganu hidap kanser

**Kuala Nerus:** Seramai 350 atau 56.6 peratus wanita berbanding hanya 270 atau 49 peratus lelaki menghidap kanser di negeri ini tahun lalu.

Pengarah Kesihatan negeri, Datuk Dr Kasemani Embong berkata, lima kes kanser tertinggi di negeri ini adalah kanser kolorektal, kanser payudara, kanser paru-paru, leukemia dan tiroid.

Katanya, 123 atau 19.8 peratus kes kanser kolorektal, payudara (85 kes atau 13.7 peratus), kanser paru-paru (69 kes atau 11.1 peratus), leukemia (45 kes atau 7.2 peratus) dan kanser tiroid membabitkan 29 kes atau 4.7 peratus.

"Kes kanser baharu menunjukkan peningkatan dari 430 kes pada 2021 kepada 575 kes pada 2022 dan seterusnya 621 kes tahun lalu.

"Sebanyak 350 kes kanser atau 56.6 peratus didiagnos dalam kalangan wanita berbanding 270 orang atau 49.0 peratus membabitkan lelaki," katanya di sini, semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Kasemani berkata, aktiviti kesedaran mengenai kanser dan kepentingan pemeriksaan sendiri serta saringan harus dipertingkatkan agar penyakit kanser dapat dikesan awal.

Katanya, satu pertiga daripada penyakit kanser terutama kanser payudara, kolorektal dan kanser serviks boleh dicegah sekiranya dibuat saringan awal.

"Kita kesal apabila 59.3 peratus penghidap kanser kolorektal dan 56.5 peratus membabitkan kes kanser payudara dikesan ketika penyakit itu berada pada tahap tiga dan empat," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO  
MUKA SURAT : 6  
RUANGAN : LOKAL



ANGGOTA bomba memadamkan kebakaran.

## Khidmat kesihatan di Dewan Serbaguna Kampung Tangkarason

**Sandakan:** Perkhidmatan kesihatan yang disediakan Klinik Kesihatan Tangkarason di Beluran dipindahkan sementara ke Dewan Serbaguna Kampung Tangkarason berikutan kejadian kebakaran di klinik itu pada awal pagi semalam.

Pengarah Kesihatan Sabah Datuk Dr Asits Sanna berkata langkah itu bagi memenuhi keperluan perkhidmatan kesihatan di kawasan berkenaan setelah kebakaran memusnahkan klinik berstruktur kayu itu, termasuk sebuah kuarters.

"Keseluruhan bangunan klinik dan kuarters berstruktur kayu, termasuk semua aset dan kelengkapan perubatan serta peralatan telah musnah sepenuhnya

dalam kejadian ini.

"Tiada sebarang kecederaan atau kemalangan jiwa dilaporkan dan punca kebakaran masih dalam siasatan pihak Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) Sabah," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini semalam.

Dalam kejadian kira-kira 1 pagi tadi itu, sepasukan anggota dari Balai Bomba dan Penyelamat Beluran bergegas ke tempat kejadian, sejauh 215 km dari balai dan mendapati klinik serta kuarters musnah 100 peratus setiba di tempat kejadian.

Operasi pemadaman terkawal pada pukul 6.20 pagi dan tamat sepenuhnya pada jam 8.26 pagi.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO  
MUKA SURAT : 11  
RUANGAN : LOKAL

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Kuala Lumpur

Terdapat keperluan segera untuk memperkenalkan peraturan bagi mengawal selia kandungan vape demi kepentingan bersama.

Ketua Aktivis Persatuan Pengguna Islam Malaysia (PPIM) Datuk Nadzim Johan (gambar) berkata, setiap perkara dilakukan perlu mempunyai garis panduan khusus agar tidak mendatangkan masalah kepada masyarakat.

Menurutnya, seperti perkara lain, vape tidak terkecuali daripada peraturan negara dan semua pihak perlu memainkan peranan memastikan kawalan yang terbaik ke atas produk alternatif itu.

"Sebenarnya kita mungkin agak terlewat kerana vape sudah menjadi sebahagian daripada masyarakat di negara ini.

"Bila sudah terbiasa, ba-

## KAWAL SELIA KANDUNGAN VAPE

# Segera perkenal peraturan

ru nak ada garis panduan, itu seperti terkebelakang, tetapi kita mesti mulakan sesuatu. Tidak ada

yang lewat untuk perkara baik," katanya kepada Harian Metro, kelmarin.

Beliau berkata, sejak beberapa tahun kebelakangan ini, pihaknya tampil dengan cadangan kepada pihak

berwajib untuk mengawal produk berkenaan demi kebaikan semua terutama generasi muda.

Katanya, PPIM juga bersedia untuk bekerjasama dengan mana-mana pihak untuk memastikan hasrat itu tercapai.

"Kita sedia bekerjasama. Tidak jadi masalah kerana yang penting garis panduan ini nan-

ti untuk kebaikan semua.

"Sesiapa pun tidak mahu badan mereka dicemari dengan bahan berbahaya, jadi ini usaha yang baik demi masa depan semua," katanya.

Kelmarin, Ahli Parlimen Tasek Gelugor, Datuk Wan Saiful Wan Jan, mendesak kerajaan memperkenalkan peraturan bagi mengawal selia kandungan vape.

Katanya, ketika ini, tidak ada sebarang peraturan yang dikenakan bagi kawalan bahan yang terkandung dalam peranti elektronik



VAPE tidak terkecuali daripada peraturan negara dan semua pihak perlu memainkan peranan pastikan kawalan terbaik ke atas produk itu.

AKHBAR : KOSMO  
MUKA SURAT : 5  
RUANGAN : NEGARA

## Malaysia tuan rumah ASIAN MEDTEC 2024

**PUTRAJAYA** – Malaysia akan menjadi destinasi pusat inovasi teknologi dan peranti, perubahan terbaharu apabila terpilih sebagai tuan rumah Persidangan dan Pameran Teknologi Perubatan Antarabangsa Asian (ASIAN MEDTEC 2024) pada Disember depan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, ASIAN MEDTEC 2024 akan berlangsung di Pusat Konvensyen Kuala Lumpur (KLCC) bermula pada 10 sehingga 12 Disember depan.

Beliau berkata, program anjuran Pihak Berkuasa Peranti Perubatan (MDA) itu dijangka menarik lebih daripada 250 syarikat pempamer dan 10,000 pengunjung dari 25 negara.

"Turut berlangsung pada program sama termasuk Mesyuarat Tahunan Global Harmonization Working Party (GHWP) yang ke-28 yang bakal mengumpulkan delegasi pihak berkuasa dan industri dari 34 negara seluruh dunia.

"Pemilihan Malaysia sebagai tuan rumah bagi Mesyuarat Tahunan GHWP memberi isyarat bahawa penglibatan aktif Malaysia dalam landskap teknologi dan peranti perubatan antarabangsa semakin meningkat," katanya ketika ditemui pada sidang akhbar selepas majlis

prapelancongan program tersebut di sini semalam.

Katanya, program itu diharapkan dapat meletakkan Malaysia sebagai pusat pemasaran dan pengedaran strategik peranti perubatan bukan sahaja untuk pasaran tempatan tetapi juga untuk pasaran serantau yang lebih luas.

Beliau berkata, ASIAN MEDTEC 2024 dijangka menjadi platform pelancaran bagi produk inovasi baharu selain memperkukuhkan reputasi Malaysia sebagai destinasi pilihan untuk pengeluaran peranti perubatan dan aktiviti rantaian bekalan.

Menurutnya, penganjuran program ini bertujuan mendorong kerjasama dalam kalangan agensi-agensi utama kerajaan untuk membentuk ekosistem bertaraf dunia bagi teknologi dan peranti perubatan di Malaysia.

"MDA turut bekerjasama dengan persatuan-persatuan utama industri ini di Malaysia termasuk Persatuan Peranti Perubatan Malaysia (MMDA) dan Persatuan Pengilang Peranti Perubatan Malaysia (Perantim) untuk menjadikan acara ini sebagai acara 'wajib hadir' bagi industri peranti dan teknologi perubatan di Asia," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN  
MUKA SURAT : 26  
RUANGAN : NEGERI

## Klinik Desa Bakar Batu bukan 'rumah hantu', bakal berwajah baharu

### JOHOR BAHRU -

Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Johor (JKNJ) menjelaskan dakwaan tular di media sosial mengenai 'klinik atau rumah hantu' merujuk kepada Klinik Desa Bakar Batu adalah tidak tepat dan mengelirukan.

Pengarahnya, Dr Mohhtar Pungut @ Ahmad berkata, klinik berkenaan mula beroperasi pada 1969 sebagai Rumah Bidan Klinik dengan infrastruktur kayu untuk penduduk di Kampung Bakar Batu dan sekitarnya.

"Bangunan klinik ini adalah bersambung antara klinik dan kuarters sebelum dinaiktaraf kepada bangunan batu pada 2010.

"Manakala bangunan kuarters dikosongkan bermula 2011 akibat keadaannya yang tidak lagi selamat untuk diduduki," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Khamis.

Terdahulu, dalam satu video tular berdurasi satu minit 54 saat di laman sosial TikTok memaparkan seorang lelaki mendakwa klinik berkenaan kelihatan uzur dengan struktur papan yang reput dan buruk seperti rumah hantu.

Lelaki terbabit mendakwa keadaan klinik itu juga tidak mendapat perhatian



Tangkap layar video tular berhubung Klinik Desa Bakar Batu.

wakil rakyat dan pihak berkaitan.

Bagaimanapun, Mokhtar menjelaskan, Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Johor Bahru sudah mengemukakan permohonan kelulusan syor roboh dan bina baru kuarters klinik tersebut kepada Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM).

Katanya, perakuan pelupusan bangunan sudah diluluskan KKM tahun lalu dan pihaknya kini sedang menunggu kerja pembinaan dimulakan.

"Dakwaan pemilik akaun TikTok yang berkaitan bangunan Klinik Desa Bakar Batu adalah mengelirukan.

"Kerja meroboh dan bina baru kuarters akan dilaksanakan selepas mendapat kelulusan dan pengesahan peruntukan pada tahun ini," katanya.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
MUKA SURAT : 30  
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

## Jumlah kes kanser di Terengganu meningkat

**KUALA NERUS:** Jumlah pesakit kanser baharu di Terengganu meningkat kepada 621 orang pada tahun lalu berbanding 575 orang tahun sebelumnya.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan negeri, Datuk Dr. Kasamani Embong berkata, daripada 621 kes tersebut, sebanyak 350 kes kanser atau 56.6 peratus yang didiagnos adalah golongan wanita.

Katanya, lima kes kanser tertinggi di Terengganu pada 2023 adalah kanser kolorektal iaitu 123 kes (19.8 peratus), kanser payudara 85 kes (13.7 peratus) dan kanser paru-paru 69 kes (11.1 peratus).

"Selain itu, leukemia merekodkan sebanyak 45 kes (7.2 peratus) dan kanser tiroid pula ialah 29 kes (4.7 peratus).

"Jabatan terus memberi pendedahan terhadap langkah pencegahan dan saringan awal kepada penduduk Terengganu mengenai ancaman kanser dari masa ke semasa," katanya selepas merasmikan Sambutan Hari Kanser Sedunia peringkat negeri bertemakan Rapatkan Jurang Penjagaan, di sini, semalam.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : MUKA HADAPAN

## ***Health alert for TB***

Malaysia recorded more TB cases in 2023 compared with 2022, showing that the disease remains a public health concern. While it is curable, drug-resistant TB is a challenge, so people experiencing symptoms like prolonged coughing and weight loss are advised to seek medical treatment.

> See stories on page 5 by RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM and MARTIN CARVALHO

AKHBAR : THE STAR  
MUKA SURAT : 5  
RUANGAN : NATION

# TB – a ticking time bomb?

Latent infections and not seeking treatment a cause for alarm, experts say

**PETALING JAYA:** While much attention has been given to Covid-19 over the past few years, the re-emergence of "forgotten diseases" such as tuberculosis (TB) should be a cause for concern, say medical experts.

The re-emergence of TB, they believe, is due to several factors, such as infected people not seeking treatment and possibly the high presence of foreign workers. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's community health expert Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh said those who are infected may not have sought treatment, causing the spread of the disease.

"TB has a long duration of treatment, sometimes up to six months," she said when contacted.

TB is regulated by the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 (Act 342) and patients can be penalised for failing to comply with the requirement for treatment.

Prof Sharifa Ezat said people may be infected but appear to be well until their immune system deteriorates due to old age or illnesses such as diabetes. In such cases, the TB may flare up.

"Children may get it from other sources, usually other people. They can end up with bad infections too, like pneumonia," she said.

She added that people may also develop multi-drug resistant TB if they don't seek proper treatment.

"Sometimes due to not finishing the course of treatment, TB flares up again.

"By then, the old treatment doesn't work anymore, so TB bugs become resistant to the old treatment. More expensive drugs would then be needed," she said.

Fomema's health screening system is effective in preventing the entry of infectious diseases through foreigners, she said.

That being said, there may be gaps that must be addressed, Prof

**"Tuberculosis has a long duration of treatment, sometimes up to six months."**

Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh

Sharifa Ezat stressed.

"Our Fomema screening is definitely quite strict, so whatever disease a migrant worker has, it may only become apparent later on.

"This could be due to the disease being in its window period. Hence, it would be undetectable.

"So, in TB cases too, there might be a time phase called latent TB where the usual customary tests may yield a very low or no

response although the person may be a carrier.

"Now, these are screened workers, so you can imagine the situation if they (are) combined with those who do not undergo proper medical screening and refugees who enter Malaysia."

She noted that migrant workers in Malaysia mostly originate from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and other Asian countries in smaller numbers such as India, Cambodia and Laos.

"Most of these countries have a high burden of infectious diseases, including TB," she said.

She proposed effective screening procedures for infectious diseases to cover not only legal migrant workers but also refugees and illegal migrants.

Malaysian Medical Association president Dr Azizah Abdul Aziz said numerous cases of communicable diseases among foreign workers have been detected despite the requirement for them

to undergo pre-departure medical screening in their country of origin.

"The issue at the moment is that there is no standard health screening at source countries.

"Some migrant workers who pass the screening at their source countries fail the Fomema screening here when they arrive.

"We do not have the data on TB among undocumented migrants.

"However, it is alarming that 6,413 cases of TB were detected among legal entries of foreign workers in 2023, as confirmed in data provided by Fomema," she added.

Public health expert Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said TB is still very much around in society, adding that the prevalence of latent TB among citizens and non-citizens alike is worrying.

Besides foreign workers, refugees too should be screened for any possible diseases, the former health ministry official added.

## What is TB?

Tuberculosis is caused by the *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* (*M. Tuberculosis* sp) bacteria. TB is airborne and can spread through the cough, sneeze or spit of an infected person.



## One is at risk of contracting TB if they are a:

- Close contact with an infected person
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) patient
- Diabetic
- Healthcare workers
- HIV patient
- Prison inmates
- Senior Citizens
- Renal Failure patients
- Smokers
- Rheumatoid Arthritis

## Treatment

Tuberculosis can be treated with antibiotics which is prescribed for 4-6 months.

Source: Health Ministry and World Health Organisation

## TB cases rise by over 5% last year

**PETALING JAYA:** Malaysia recorded 26,781 cases of tuberculosis (TB) cases in 2023, a 5.47% increase from the 25,391 TB cases reported in 2022, says the Health Ministry.

In 2021, there were 21,727 cases reported in the country.

In a statement to *The Star*, the Health Ministry said the cases were detected through proactive case detection strategies.

"Active contact tracing is one of the core activities that have been implemented in Malaysia to control TB transmission," it said.

The ministry said TB is airborne. However, transmission to a healthy person will require a prolonged and close exposure to someone with active TB, such as living under one roof with an infected person.

"It is important for individuals with symptoms of TB, like cough lasting for more than two weeks, fever, loss of appetite, loss of weight and night sweats, to seek early treatment in nearby healthcare facilities," it said.

The ministry said TB is curable and, in the majority of cases, can be cured with six months of anti-TB medications.

"Once diagnosed, the patient

needs to adhere to a schedule of anti-TB medication for a minimum of six months. Diagnosis and treatment in Malaysia are fully subsidised by the government," it added.

In line with the global plan to end TB, Malaysia has also developed an action plan that aims to make the country TB-free by 2035, the ministry said.

"Malaysia's National Tuberculosis Programmes (NTPs) include a TB control strategy, emphasising early case detection among symptomatic and high-risk patients, ensuring laboratory services that meet international standards, development of training modules, developing guidelines and MyTB databases, and strengthening inter-agency collaboration with others," it said.

On preventive measures, the ministry said newborn babies are given the BCG immunisation to reduce the risk of severe TB, such as TB meningitis (characterised by inflammation of the membranes around the brain or spinal cord) and miliary TB (a potentially life-threatening type of TB that occurs when a large number of the bacteria travel through the bloodstream and spread through-

out the body).

Screening and treatment of latent TB infection (LTBI), particularly in high-risk groups such as those in contact with TB patients, comorbid patients with HIV, renal failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and inmates in institutions, can prevent LTBI from progressing into an active TB infection, said the ministry.

Individuals with LTBI have a higher risk (5%-10%) of progressing to active TB disease later in life. Preventive treatment for LTBI can halt the progression to active TB disease.

"We would like to advise the public to seek early treatment at healthcare facilities if they have any symptoms of TB. Delay in seeking diagnosis and treatment can worsen the condition and even lead to death, while increasing the risk of spreading the disease," said the ministry.

"Practise a proper cough etiquette, cover the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.

"Most importantly, do not stigmatised people diagnosed with TB. Instead, provide motivation and moral support to people diagnosed with TB and their family to complete the treatment."

## 'I thought it only affected the lungs'

**PETALING JAYA:** It is always harder when it hits close to home. This was the case for National Association of Human Resources Malaysia president Zarina Ismail, who witnessed her 20-year-old son battling tuberculosis (TB) recently.

"It is ironic that we recently spoke about the new Fomema health screening ruling for foreign workers and why it is important for public safety.

"I never expected that only a few days later, I would be calling to inform you that my own son has TB," the emotionally dis-

traught mother said in a telephone call from Hospital Putrajaya.

She said the doctor initially thought her son, Muhammad Syafiq, had a tumour growing on the lymph node at the right side of his neck, causing a large swelling filled with pus.

However, tissue tests confirmed it was TB.

"I thought TB only affected the lungs and not other parts of the body," she said.

Muhammad Syafiq was deemed a latent carrier who contracted the disease from an "unknown

source" more than a year ago before it flared up recently.

Zarina said her son's future seems uncertain at the moment, but for now, the focus would be on his recovery.

"My son is doing his diploma in electrical technology at a college in Alor Gajah, Melaka and is supposed to sit for his final presentation and examinations later this month. But he is still very weak and has lost weight.

"I am hoping he will be able to recover and regain his strength in time for his presentation," she said, adding that Muhammad



Syafiq has been discharged.

He will have to take his TB medication daily over the next six to nine months without missing a single dose if he is to fully recover,

**Uphill battle:** Syafiq receiving treatment after contracting tuberculosis from an unknown source. He has since been discharged but is still very weak.

Zarina said, the hospital authorities in Melaka are expected to screen students at her son's college soon as a precautionary measure.

AKHBAR : THE STAR  
MUKA SURAT : 11  
RUANGAN : NATION

## Health clinic in Sabah razed

**KOTA KINABALU:** A health clinic which serves thousands of rural folk in Beluran district burned down around midnight on Wednesday.

A workers' quarters was also destroyed in the Kampung Tangkarason fire, said state Fire and Rescue Department assistant director of operations Hamsa Isnurdini.

"Fortunately, no one was injured," he added.

Responding to this incident, Sugut assemblyman Datuk James Ratih said the clinic will be rebuilt quickly in the area so that

villagers will be able to get medical attention.

He said that at the moment, almost 2,800 villagers will have to go further to seek medical assistance.

"There are two other health clinics closest to this village – the Paitan health clinic situated 29km away and another in Sungai Sungai some 50km from the burnt-down clinic," he said in a statement yesterday.

James said that due to the severity of the matter, it is vital that action be taken immediately while awaiting a new clinic and

workers' quarters to be built.

"For now, the option they have is to utilise the Kampung Tangkarason multipurpose hall as a temporary clinic," he said.

He said it will take at least six months for the clinic to be rebuilt and around nine months for a new workers' quarters to be constructed.

The Sabah Health Department and Health Ministry, he added, will need to work together to get funding for the rebuilding of both facilities.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.



**Out of control:** Firemen trying to put out the fire in Beluran.