

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Malaysia junjung prinsip solidariti, kesaksamaan semakan IHR

Kuala Lumpur: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim menegaskan Malaysia berpegang teguh kepada prinsip kesaksamaan dan solidariti untuk dilaksanakan dalam semakan Peraturan-Peraturan Kesihatan Antarabangsa (IHR) serta perjanjian pandemik.

Mengakui berdepan cabaran mencapai konsensus mengenai perjanjian pandemik dan pindaan terhadap IHR, Perdana Menteri menjelaskan, langkah mengutamakan hak kepada kesihatan memerlukan usaha kolektif bagi menangani ketaksamaan dan meningkatkan kesiapsiagaan berdepan kecemasan masa depan.

"Saya ingin tegaskan, kesaksamaan perlu menyokong sebarang perjanjian ke arah penambahbaikan lebih bermakna da-

lam usaha mencegah pandemik, kesiapsiagaan dan respons secara kolektif.

"Kolaborasi akan menjadi kunci untuk melangkah ke hadapan, maka adalah penting untuk mengimbangi sumber dengan kesihatan awam global sebagai matlamatnya.

"Selepas itu, barulah kita boleh menangani jurang dan ketaksamaan dalam usaha mencegah serta memberikan tindak balas terhadap pandemik dan kecemasan kesihatan lain sambil bersama-sama melindungi hak keadilatan negara.

"Saya yakin kita mampu melakukan perubahan transformatif dengan hasil berkekalan dan menjadi legasi," katanya.

Perdana Menteri berkata demikian ketika berucap sempena



Kerajaan komited pastikan rakyat mempunyai akses kepada perkhidmatan penjagaan kesihatan serta mencegah pandemik. (Foto hiasan)

Perhimpunan Kesihatan Sedunia ke-77 (WHR77) di Geneva, Switzerland kelmarin.

Ucapan beliau berdurasi tiga minit 45 saat itu dilakukan melalui sidang video, dikongsi oleh Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) di laman media sosial.

Delegasi Malaysia ke Geneva diketuai Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

Anwar turut berkongsi komitmen Malaysia dalam memastikan setiap individu tanpa mengira latar belakang atau kedudukan sosioekonomi, mempunyai akses kepada perkhidmatan penjagaan kesihatan yang berkualiti sepanjang hidup mereka.

Menyentuh isu hak seagat ter-

hadap kesihatan, Perdana Menteri menggesa komuniti antarabangsa mengambil lebih banyak tindakan dalam menghentikan kekejaman dan memastikan kebertanggungjawaban terlaksana susulan musibah kemanusiaan dihadapi rakyat Palestin di Gaza.

"Mereka bukan hanya berdepan keburlaran, malnutrisi dan penyakit. Hospital mereka dibom oleh rejim Israel, manakala pekerja perubatan dan sukarelawan kemanusiaan dibunuh secara rambang," katanya.

Pada 24 Mei lalu, Dr Dzulkefly menegaskan pembabitian Malaysia dalam dua platform rundungan antarabangsa bertujuan melindungi kesihatan awam.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kes jantung, strok, darah beku tiada lagi kaitan AZ

Penyakit berlaku disebabkan faktor merokok, kolesterol, kencing manis

Oleh Essa Abu Yamin
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Kuala Lumpur: Kes serangan jantung, strok dan masalah pembekuan darah yang masih berlaku kini tiada kaitan dengan vaksin AstraZeneca (AZ) disebabkan tiada lagi program vaksinasi menggunakan vaksin berkenaan sejak kebelakangan ini.

Bekas Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, kes penyakit itu masih berlaku ketika ini disebabkan

faktor risiko lain seperti merokok, masalah kolesterol dan masalah kencing manis.

"Orang ramai diminta membezakan antara kesan sampingan darah beku Vaccine Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT) dengan masalah pembekuan darah yang lain.

"Kriteria diagnosa VITT mestilah ia berlaku dalam masa empat minggu selepas vaksinasi dan perlu ada nilai platelet yang rendah.

"Diagnosa tidak boleh dibuat dengan mata kasar tanpa pemeriksaan dan pengesahan oleh pegawai perubatan," katanya menerusi ciapan di aplikasi X, semalam.

Hati-hati analisis fakta

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, semua pihak perlu berhati-hati dengan analisis fakta dan salah tafsir yang akan menyebabkan kekusutan serta kekehiruan dalam ka-

langan masyarakat.

Dalam pada itu, Dr Noor Hisham menegaskan bahawa kesan sampingan yang dikatakan berkaitan dengan vaksin AZ adalah kesan darah beku atau VITT.

"Ia adalah penyakit di mana darah membeku bersama dengan sel darah kuning menjadi kuarang. Perkara ini hanya berlaku dalam masa empat hari hingga empat minggu selepas menerima vaksinasi.

"Orang ramai diminta tidak bimbang kerana vaksinasi terakhir AstraZeneca berlaun bertahun lamanya. Kes mahkamah yang diuar-uarkan adalah kes yang berlaku di United Kingdom (UK) ketika pandemik COVID-19," katanya.

Tambah beliau, vaksin berkenaan masih perlu digunakan untuk program vaksinasi kerana kadar kematian akibat COVID-19 dalam kalangan masyarakat yang tidak divaksin amat tinggi

dan ketika itu stok vaksin tidak mencukupi waktu itu.

"Golongan berisiko tinggi adalah golongan yang pernah mempunyai sejarah pembekuan darah sebelum ini dan mereka tidak dibenarkan menerima vaksin jenis AstraZeneca.

"Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) juga mengeluarkan garis panduan bagi menyaring golongan yang berisiko tinggi bagi tidak menerima vaksin jenis ini dan juga bagi pengesanan awal sekiranya kesan sampingan selepas imunisasi (AEFI) berlaku," katanya.

Kesan sampingan rendah

Katanya, selain langkah berjaga-jaga ini, insiden kesan sampingan darah beku VITT juga sangat rendah, iaitu empat kes berlaku dalam satu setiap juta suntikan.

"Jika dibandingkan dengan risiko darah beku dan platelet ren-

Kriteria diagnosa VITT mestilah ia berlaku dalam masa empat minggu selepas vaksinasi dan perlu ada nilai platelet

Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Bekas Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan



dah selepas jangkitan COVID-19 itu sendiri, ia lebih selamat.

"Selepas jangkitan COVID-19, risiko kesan darah beku daripada jangkitan thrombotic thrombocytopenia (TT) ini adalah setinggi 165,000 kes dalam satu juta jangkitan.

"Insiden darah beku dalam kalangan perokok pula adalah lebih tinggi, iaitu hampir 1,800 kes dalam satu juta perokok. Tiada lagi kes VITT dikesan dan dilaporkan kini," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 9
RUANGAN : LOKAL

DEMAM DENGGI

42 kematian di seluruh negara

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Sebanyak 42 kematian akibat komplikasi demam denggi direkodkan di seluruh negara, setakat ini.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan berkata, jumlah kematian itu meningkat berbanding 28 kematian direkodkan bagi tempoh yang sama pada tahun lalu.

Menurutnya, pada Minggu Epidemiologi ke-20 bermula 12 hingga

18 Mei lalu, sebanyak 2,461 kes demam denggi dilaporkan berbanding 2,338 kes pada minggu sebelumnya.

Katanya, sebanyak dua kematian turut dilaporkan akibat komplikasi wabak itu minggu lalu.

"Secara kumulatif kes demam denggi yang di-

laporkan sehingga Minggu Epidemiologi ke-20 adalah sebanyak 59,681 kes berbanding 43,619 kes bagi tempoh sama pada 2023.

"Manakala terdapat 42 kematian akibat komplikasi demam denggi dilaporkan berbanding 28 kematian bagi tempoh

sama," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Dr Muhammad Radzi berkata, sebanyak 59 lokaliti *hotspot* yang dilaporkan pada Minggu Epidemiologi ke-20 berbanding sebanyak 60 lokaliti pada minggu sebelumnya.

Menurutnya, daripada

59 lokaliti yang dilaporkan, 44 lokaliti di Selangor; masing-masing empat di Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya serta Sarawak; tiga lokaliti di Kedah, dua di Perak dan masing-masing satu lokaliti di Pulau Pinang dan Negeri Sembilan.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Pembekuan darah, strok disebabkan merokok, kolesterol dan kencing manis

Vaksin bukan punca sakit jantung

Oleh SITI A'ISYAH SUKAIMI

PETALING JAYA – Kes serangan jantung, strok dan masalah pembekuan darah yang masih lagi berlaku kini tiada kaitan dengan vaksin AstraZeneca.

* Bekas Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, tiada lagi program vaksinasi menggunakan vaksin AstraZeneca kebelakangan ini, bahkan ia juga tidak digunakan untuk dos penggalak.

Menurutnya, serangan jantung, strok dan masalah pembekuan darah yang masih berlaku kini adalah disebabkan faktor risiko lain seperti merokok, masalah kolesterol dan masalah kencing manis.

"Orang ramai diminta membezakan antara kesan sampingan darah beku (VITT) dengan masalah pembekuan darah yang lain. Kriteria diagnosis VITT mestilah ia berlaku dalam masa empat minggu selepas vaksinasi dan perlu ada nilai platelet yang rendah.



MASALAH pembekuan darah berlaku adalah berpunca risiko lain seperti merokok, masalah kolesterol dan kencing manis. – GAMBAR HIASAN

"Diagnosis tidak boleh dibuat dengan mata kasar tanpa pemeriksaan dan pengesahan oleh pegawai perubatan," katanya dalam hantaran semalam.

Katanya, semua pihak perlu

berhati-hati dengan analisis-fakta dan salah tafsir yang akan menyebabkan kekusutan dan kekeliruan dalam masyarakat.

Beliau berkata, kesan sampingan yang dikatakan berkait de-

ngan vaksin AstraZeneca adalah kesan darah beku atau *Vaccine Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia* (VITT).

"Ia adalah penyakit yang mana darah membeku bersama de-

ngan sel darah kuning menjadi kurang. Perkara ini hanya berlaku dalam masa empat hari hingga empat minggu selepas menerima vaksinasi," katanya.

Ujarnya, KKM juga mengeluarkan garis panduan bagi menyaring golongan berisiko tinggi untuk tidak menerima vaksin jenis AstraZeneca, selain pengesanan awal sekiranya kesan sampingan ini berlaku AEFI.

"Insiden VITT juga sangat rendah iaitu empat kes berlaku dalam setiap sejuta suntikan. Jika dibandingkan dengan risiko darah beku dan platelet rendah selepas jangkitan Covid-19 itu sendiri, ia lebih selamat.

"Selepas jangkitan Covid-19, risiko kesan darah beku daripada jangkitan *thrombotic thrombocytopenia* (TT) ini setinggi 165,000 kes dalam sejuta jangkitan.

"Insiden darah beku dalam kalangan perokok pula adalah lebih tinggi iaitu hampir 1,800 kes dalam sejuta perokok. Tiada lagi kes VITT dikesan dan dilaporkan kini," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kes-kes itu berlaku disebabkan faktor risiko lain seperti merokok, kolesterol dan kencing manis

Serangan jantung, strok, darah beku tiada kaitan vaksin AZ

Oleh NOR SYAMIRA LIANA
NOR ASHAHA
SHAH ALAM

Kes serangan jantung, strok dan masalah pembekuan darah yang berlaku kini tiada kaitan dengan vaksin AstraZeneca (AZ).

Bekas Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ia kerana tiada lagi program vaksinasi menggunakan vaksin berkenaan kebelakangan ini.

"Kesan sampingan yang dikaitkan dengan vaksin AstraZeneca adalah kesan darah beku atau Vaccine Induced

Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT).

"Ia adalah penyakit darah membeku bersama dengan sel darah kuning menjadi kurang. Perkara ini hanya berlaku dalam masa empat hari hingga empat minggu (sebulan) selepas menerima vaksinasi," katanya menerusi satu hantaran di laman sosial X pada Selasa.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau memaklumkan, pihaknya pada ketika itu telah menerima laporan berkenaan VITT, namun vaksin itu perlu digunakan untuk program vaksinasi kerana kadar kematian akibat Covid-19 dalam kalangan masyarakat yang tidak

divaksin amat tinggi.

Bagaimanapun, Dr Noor Hisham berkata, golongan berisiko tinggi adalah individu yang mempunyai sejarah pembekuan darah sebelum ini dan mereka tidak dibenarkan menerima vaksin jenis AZ.

Susulan itu, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) juga mengeluarkan garis panduan bagi menyaring golongan yang berisiko tinggi untuk tidak menerima vaksin AZ dan bagi pe-



DR NOOR HISHAM

ngesanan awal jika kesan sampingan susulan imunisasi (AEFI) berlaku.

"Insiden kesan sampingan VITT sangat rendah iaitu empat kes dalam setiap 1 juta suntikan. Jika dibandingkan dengan risiko darah beku dan platelet rendah selepas jangkitan Covid-19 itu, ia lebih

selamat.

"Selepas jangkitan Covid-19, risiko kesan darah beku daripada jangkitan thrombotic thrombocytopenia (TT) ini adalah se-

tinggi 165,000 kes dalam 1 juta jangkitan.

"Insiden darah beku dalam kalangan perokok pula adalah lebih tinggi iaitu hampir 1,800 kes dalam 1 juta perokok. Tiada lagi kes VITT dikesan dan dilaporkan kini," ujarnya.

Tambah beliau, serangan jantung, strok dan masalah pembekuan darah yang masih berlaku kini adalah disebabkan faktor risiko lain seperti merokok, kolesterol dan kencing manis.

Justeru, orang ramai diminta membezakan antara kesan sampingan VITT dengan masalah pembekuan darah yang lain.

Kes demam denggi terus meningkat, dua kematian dilaporkan

PUTRAJAYA - Sebanyak 2,461 kes demam denggi dilaporkan pada Minggu Epidemiologi ke-20 (ME20) bagi tempoh 12 hingga 18 Mei lepas, peningkatan 123 kes baharu berbanding 2,338 kes pada minggu sebelumnya.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan berkata, dua kematian akibat komplikasi demam denggi turut direkodkan dalam tempoh berkenaan.

Beliau berkata, kumulatif kes demam denggi yang dilaporkan sehingga ME20 ialah 59,681 kes berbanding 43,619 kes bagi tempoh sama pada 2023, manakala 42 kematian akibat komplikasi demam denggi direkodkan berbanding 28 kematian bagi tempoh sama tahun lepas.



DR MUHAMMAD RADZI

"Bilangan lokaliti hotspot yang dilaporkan pada ME20 adalah 59 lokaliti berbanding 60 lokaliti hotspot pada minggu sebelumnya.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 44 lokaliti adalah di Selangor, Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya (empat), Sarawak (empat), Kedah (tiga), Perak (dua) dan masing-masing satu lokaliti di Pulau Pinang dan Negeri Sembilan," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Selasa.

Bagi survelan chikungunya, satu kes direkodkan pada ME20, menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes chikungunya sehingga kini ialah 25 kes dengan tiada wabak berkenaan dilaporkan.

Manakala bagi survelan zika, Dr Muhammad Radzi berkata, 1,021 sampel darah dan enam sampel urin telah dijalankan dengan hasil kesemuanya adalah negatif. - Bernama

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 1
RUANGAN : MUKA DEPAN

Antara punca utama disebabkan perhijrahan cendekiawan

95% klinik, hospital kerajaan tidak cukup kakitangan

Oleh ARIF AIMAN ASROL
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PETALING JAYA: Hampir semua klinik dan hospital kerajaan di seluruh negara dilaporkan beroperasi dalam keadaan kurang kakitangan sehingga menyebab-

kan berlaku lambakan tugas dan memanjangkan lagi tempoh menunggu.

Presiden Persatuan Perubatan Malaysia (MMA), Dr. Azizan Abdul Aziz berkata, tinjauan pihaknya mendapati hanya lima peratus kemudahan penjagaan

kesihatan awam mempunyai tenaga yang mencukupi.

Menurutnya, hampir separuh daripada responden memaklumkan kekurangan sumber tenaga itu berpunca daripada doktor yang memilih untuk berhenti kerja atau berpindah.

Sehubungan itu, jelasnya, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) perlu menjalankan kajian komprehensif yang telus bagi menangani masalah kekurangan tenaga dan beban kerja dalam sektor kesihatan awam.

"Hanya enam responden

(lima peratus) menunjukkan mereka mempunyai tenaga manusia mencukupi manakala 36 responden (32 peratus) memerlukan peningkatan sehingga 50 peratus tenaga kerja.

Bersambung di muka 3

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

95% klinik, hospital kerajaan tidak cukup kakitangan

Dari muka 1

"51 responden (46 peratus) pula memerlukan peningkatan hingga 100 peratus.

"(Selain itu), 18 responden (16 peratus) memerlukan lebih dua kali ganda daripada bilangan doktor semasa untuk menyediakan perkhidmatan yang baik," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Mengulas lanjut, Azizan memberitahu, pihaknya percaya antara sebab utama berlaku masalah kekurangan tenaga kerja adalah *brain drain* (penghijrahan cendekiawan).

"Terdapat peningkatan men-

dadak doktor meletakkan jawatan dan tidak menerima perjawatan tetap. Doktor memilih untuk berhenti bukanlah mengejutkan, sudah dibangkitkan berulang kali.

"Terbaharu, Senator Dr. R.A. Lingeswaran berkata, 3,046 doktor kontrak meletakkan jawatan sejak tiga tahun lalu menurut KKM," jelasnya.

Sehubungan itu, beliau berkata, kerajaan perlu memandangkan serius isu tersebut sebelum sistem kesihatan negara lumpuh.

Jelasnya, Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA), Kementerian Kewangan (MOF) dan KKM perlu bekerjasama rapat den-

gan semua pihak untuk menyelesaikan.

"Dalam jangka masa panjang, kita memerlukan Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Awam yang mampu menguruskan sistem penjagaan kesihatan berasingan daripada KKM, JPA dan MOF," ujarnya.

Sementara itu, pihaknya mencadangkan empat langkah penyelesaian, antaranya mewujudkan papan pemuka yang telus memaparkan jumlah pekerja kesihatan sepertimana dilakukan pada era Covid-19.

Selain itu, kerajaan perlu merangka terma gaji baharu supaya pendapatan mereka

berdaya saing dengan sektor swasta.

"Terdapat kumpulan doktor yang kontraknya akan tamat pada bulan ini dan Julai, tetapi tidak mendapat jawapan konkrit mengenai masa depan mereka. Bukankah kita sepatutnya mengekalkan mereka untuk membendung masalah ini?"

"Banyakkan usaha membaiki kemudahan dan menggantikan peralatan yang rosak, pastikan semua sumber tidak dibelanjakan di kawasan bandar sahaja, masyarakat luar bandar turut layak mendapat kualiti penjagaan yang sama," katanya.

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

COVID-19 VACCINE

'Current cases of heart attack, stroke and blood clots not related to AstraZeneca jab'

KUALA LUMPUR: Heart attacks, strokes and blood clots that are occurring now have no connection to the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, said former Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He said recent vaccination programmes did not use the AstraZeneca vaccine and it was not used for booster doses.

He advised the public not to worry about the court case in the United Kingdom in which pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca admitted that its Covid-19 vaccine could lead to a rare blood clotting side effect as the cases occurred at the height of the pandemic.

"The side effects said to be associated with the AstraZeneca vaccine include blood clotting or

Vaccine Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT).

"It is a condition where blood clots together with a decrease in platelet count. This only occurs within a timeframe of four days to four weeks after vaccination.

"The public is advised not to worry because the last AstraZeneca vaccination was given years ago. The court case being publicised is related to an incident that occurred in the United Kingdom during the Covid-19 pandemic and is not based on recent events," he said



Tan Sri Dr Noor
Hisham Abdullah

in a post on X yesterday.

He said the current cases of heart attacks, strokes and blood clots were due to other risk factors, such as smoking, cholesterol problems and diabetes.

He called on the public to differentiate between the side effect involving VITT and other blood clotting problems.

"The diagnostic criteria for VITT must include it occurring within four weeks after vaccination and a low platelet count.

"Diagnosis cannot be made visually without examination and

confirmation by medical officers. We need to be cautious with fact analysis and misinterpretations that could cause confusion among the public."

Dr Noor Hisham said when the Health Ministry was deciding on the types of vaccine to use, it received reports saying that VITT could occur four days to four weeks after vaccination.

He said the vaccine was still needed for the vaccination programme as the Covid-19 death rate of the unvaccinated population was very high and vaccine supplies were insufficient, so those deemed high-risk, including those with a history of blood clots, were not given the AstraZeneca jab.

"The Health Ministry had also issued guidelines to screen high-

risk individuals from receiving this type of vaccine and for early detection of these side effects including AEFI (adverse events following immunisation)."

He said cases of VITT were very low, standing at four cases per one million injections.

"When compared to the risk of blood clots and low platelets after a Covid-19 infection itself, the vaccine was safer.

"After a Covid-19 infection, the risk of thrombotic thrombocytopenia (TT) is as high as 165,000 cases per one million infections.

"The incidence of blood clots among smokers is higher, nearly 1,800 cases per one million smokers.

"No more VITT cases have been detected and reported now."

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NATION

MOH halts sales of two Indian spice products

PUTRAJAYA: The Health Ministry has issued an order to immediately stop the sales of two Indian spice products, Everest Fish Curry Masala and MDH Curry Powder, suspected to contain ethylene oxide.

The ministry said traders, including online sellers, should cease sales of these products, while all e-commerce platforms and social media were urged to immediately stop advertisements

for these food items.

"Ethylene oxide, often used to kill pests, also controls microbiological contamination in spices from bacteria, viruses and fungi, and acts as an active ingredient in cleaning agents.

"Its use in food and food-contact materials is not permitted due to its carcinogenic nature," it said in a statement yesterday, reported Bernama.

The ministry said a review of

data through Malaysia's Food Safety Information System (FoSIM) until last April revealed only one importation of the Everest Fish Curry Masala brand.

The ministry reported no imports of the MDH Curry Powder brand into Malaysia.

"The ministry, via the Food Safety and Quality Programme (PKKM), conducts ongoing inspections and enforcement at entry points nationwide," it added.

Currently, the ministry is monitoring aflatoxin, heavy metals and pesticide residues in spice products at all entry points into the country.

Monitoring from 2019 to last April found that 43 such samples met legal food safety requirements.

"The ministry remains vigilant and concerned about anything that might endanger consumer safety," said the statement.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 14
RUANGAN : NATION

Dengue cases up, two deaths reported

PUTRAJAYA: Reported dengue fever cases increased to 2,461 in the 20th Epidemiological Week (ME20), from May 12 to 18, compared with 2,338 cases reported in the previous week, says the Health Ministry.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan said two deaths due to complications from dengue fever were also recorded during the period.

He said the cumulative number of dengue fever cases reported up to ME20 was 59,681 cases compared with 43,519 cases for the same period in 2023, while there were 42 deaths due to dengue fever complications reported compared with 28 deaths for the same period last year.

"The number of hotspot localities reported in ME20 was 59 compared with 60 recorded in the previous week, with 44 localities in Selangor; four each in Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Sarawak; Kedah (three); Perak (two) and one locality each in Penang and Negri Sembilan," he said in a statement yesterday, reported Bernama.

He also reported that ME20 recorded one chikungunya case, bringing the total number of chikungunya cases to 25 so far, with no outbreak reported.

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

Group to **sue** govt over vaccination side effects

➤ Association president says individuals were 'forced to take vaccine whose safety and effectiveness were unproven'

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Muslim Consumer Association is set to initiate a class action suit against the government on behalf of those who experienced side effects or died as a result of the Covid-19 vaccination.

Its president Datuk Nadzim Johan said it is crucial to hold the authorities accountable and ensure justice for those adversely affected by the vaccines.

"The association has been vocal about our concerns regarding the safety of the Covid-19 vaccines administered in the country. When the Covid-19 pandemic struck the world, Malaysians were forced to take a vaccine whose effectiveness and safety were unproven.

"This happened because we bowed to Western pressure and followed their lead without validating test results conducted by our experts. Many Malaysians experienced side effects from the vaccines.

"Medical experts, legal practitioners and the public have been dragged to court, sentenced, and even imprisoned for raising questions about the efficacy of the vaccine. The government must be held accountable for all this."

Nadzim also said the association received 496 complaints regarding vaccines and those discriminated against for not being vaccinated.

"Some lost their jobs. Others were barred from entering mosques and denied licences. We have classified all these incidents under discrimination.

"Some of the complainants also lodged police reports, and when they complained to us, we referred their cases to our lawyers, who advised the Health Ministry be sued," he said.

In 2021, the government approved financial assistance for local and foreign nationals who experienced adverse effects after being injected with the Covid-19 vaccine.

Former health minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the Perikatan Nasional government would provide RM50,000 for each

case of serious side effects that require prolonged hospitalisation. It would also provide up to RM500,000 each in the event of permanent disability or death following vaccination.

Nadzim said the affected families were now demanding compensation as per the assurance, as it is their right to do so.

"Since it is challenging for victims to receive compensation by pursuing the matter on their own, we shall represent them in a class action suit in the hope that the court will mete out justice through compensation for the families," he said.

"We are seeking compensation because none of the victims or their families can sue the vaccine manufacturers, according to World Health Organisation regulations. Purchase contracts with the vaccine manufacturers also state that they cannot be sued, so the government must bear the consequences."

The association became aware of the side effects and evidence through the complaints by the victims.

Nadzim said any medication that has side effects should be immediately withdrawn from the market and subjected to a review.

"Post-mortems should also have been conducted on the deceased but the government did not take such action."

He said the association has been filing civil lawsuits to defend the rights of Covid-19 victims since 2021, but the courts initially rejected their suits despite ample literature and reviews of the vaccines.

"Over the past two years, numerous scientists from Thailand and the US have disclosed research findings indicating that the mRNA vaccine can lead to severe side effects, including heart attacks and blood clots.

"These scientific findings and official admissions highlight the potential risks associated with the vaccine, which have affected many.

"All the victims were healthy when taking the vaccine, but suffered sudden changes soon after. Some became paralysed, and many died needlessly."

Nadzim said the government has stated that it will provide *wang shan* (courtesy money) as financial relief for the victims. However, due to the economic issues in the country, it is still very difficult to obtain such assistance.



The association claims it received 496 complaints regarding vaccines and individuals being discriminated against for not being vaccinated. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Parallel pathway issue to be promptly resolved: Minister

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has given an assurance that the Specialisation Degree Training Programme or "Parallel Pathway" issue will be resolved promptly, and that a proposed solution framework has been submitted to the Attorney-General's Chambers for evaluation.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir said discussions with the health minister was held recently to find a solution regarding legal aspects, in addition to issues related to the recognition of medical programmes offered in universities.

"The government is examining comprehensive solutions that also involve legal aspects such as a need for any amendments to the Medical Act 1971, in addition to matters related to the recognition of medical programmes offered at universities.

"We have looked into it more deeply and identified that it needs to be resolved regarding matters within legal provisions," he said after attending the investED training programme graduation ceremony organised by the Securities Commission on Monday.

The Parallel Pathway issue gained attention

when the Malaysian Medical Association requested Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) to allow entry of non-Bumiputera medical officers, who wished to undergo specialised training in cardiothoracic fields, just like how the institution accepts international students.

This comes after the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) rejected the applications of four cardiothoracic surgeons to be listed in the National Specialist Register due to their Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in Cardiothoracic Surgery qualification not being recognised.

Zambry said the issue should not only focus on the matter of admitting the four doctors to UiTM but also on why the MMC does not recognise their academic qualifications.

"It is unfair if we accuse UiTM of being too rigid and not providing space, showing no compassion to urgent cases.

"This involves the MMC. Although they (doctors) may be allowed to temporarily pass out if UiTM provides space, ultimately will the MMC accept them or not? This is the real question." — Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

Increase in dengue cases, two deaths reported

PUTRAJAYA: Reported dengue fever cases increased to 2,461 in the 20th Epidemiological Week (ME20), from May 12 to 18, compared with 2,338 cases reported in the previous week.

Health Director-General Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan said two deaths due to complications from dengue fever were also recorded during the period.

He said the cumulative number of dengue fever cases reported up to ME20 was 59,681 cases compared with 43,619 for the same period in 2023, while there were 42 deaths due to dengue fever complications reported compared with 28 deaths for the same period last year.

"The number of hotspot localities reported in ME20 was 59 compared with 60 recorded in the previous week, with 44 localities in Selangor, four localities each in Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Sarawak, three in Kedah, two in Perak and one each in Penang and Negeri Sembilan," he said in a statement. — Bernama