

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 8

RUANGAN : LOKAL

lokal

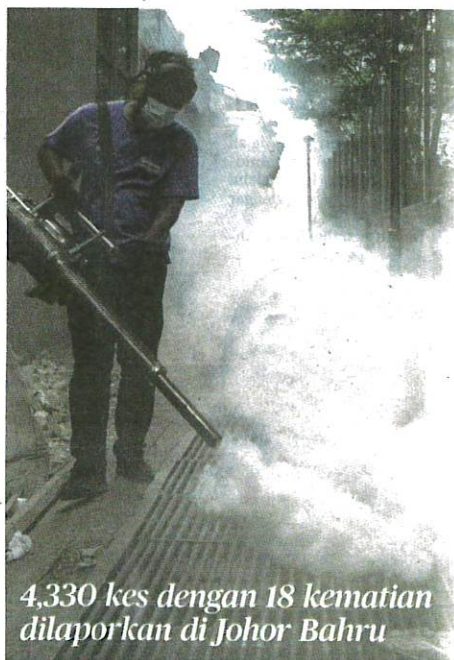


Kecil tak dihapus besar ragut nyawa



RAKAMAN gambar jentik-jentik ketika tinjauan perkembangan demam denggi di sekitar ibu kota, semalam. Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) menjangkakan berlaku gelombang kedua atau peningkatan kes demam denggi dari Jun hingga September selepas trend kenaikan secara berterusan dengan purata pertambahan lapan peratus setiap minggu. Sepanjang tempoh Januari hingga Jun, 84 kes kematian demam denggi dilaporkan berbanding 83 kes tahun lalu. -Bernama

Demam denggi mencanak



4,330 kes dengan 18 kematian dilaporkan di Johor Bahru

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Johor Bahru

Sebanyak 80 peratus kes demam denggi di Johor direkodkan berlaku di daerah ini.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan dan Alam Sekitar Johor R Vidyananthan, berkata punca utama Johor Bahru menjadi penyumbang terbesar pembiakan aedes adalah akibat kegagalan menjaga kebersihan premis kediaman dan persekitaran.

"Sehingga Sabtu lalu iaitu 4 Julai (Minggu Epidemiologi 27) terdapat 4,330 kes denggi dan 18 kematian dilaporkan di Johor Bahru.

"Johor Bahru menjadi penyumbang utama kes demam denggi dengan mencatat 80 peratus dari keseluruhan kes di Johor.

"Sebanyak 86 lokasi yang masih melaporkan wabak demam denggi secara aktif, apabila 40 lokasi wabak berada di kawasan Majlis Bandaraya Johor Bahru (MBJB), 21 lokasi wabak di kawasan Majlis Bandaraya Iskandar Puteri (MBIP) dan 25 lokasi wabak di kawasan Majlis Perbandaran Pasir Gudang (MPPG).

"Lokaliti Flat Tasek 64 Bandar Sri Alam pula melaporkan wabak penyakit demam denggi berulang sepanjang empat tahun lalu

86
Bilangan lokasi wabak aktif demam denggi

dengan empat kejadian wabak tahun ini sahaja," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Vidyananthan berkata, Program Walkabout Denggi Bersama Pemimpin dirancang bagi menangani situasi penyakit demam denggi di daerah berkenaan.

Katanya, ia selaras komitmen kerajaan Johor untuk melaksanakan Kempen Johor Perangi Denggi.

"Program Walkabout Denggi bersama diadakan esok di Flat Tasek 64 Bandar Sri Alam, Pasir Gudang," katanya.

Beliau berkata, walaupun tindakan kawalan denggi dilaksanakan kerajaan Johor setiap kali wabak, punca penularan tetap berulang.

"Masyarakat tidak boleh memandang remeh kes demam denggi kerana ia boleh berjangkit dan berisiko menyebabkan kematian.

"Sebagaimana orang ramai mengamalkan normal baharu dalam mengekang wabak Covid-19, perkara sama juga perlu terutama perubahan tingkah laku demi mencegah dijangkiti demam denggi," katanya.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : LOKAL

11 mangsa wabak discaj



Putrajaya: Terdapat 11 kes pulih dan dibenarkan discaj daripada hospital dilaporkan kepada Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat Krisis Kebangsaan (CPRC), setakat jam 12 tengah hari, semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ia menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes pulih terus meningkat kepada 8,476 kes dengan kadar kesembuhan 97.8 peratus.

Beliau berkata, 'sebanyak lima kes baharu jangkitan Covid-19 dilaporkan dan merekodkan 8,668 kes positif keseluruhan.

"Lima kes baharu itu membabitkan tiga kes import yang mendapat jang-

kitan di luar negara membabitkan dua warganegara dan satu bukan warganegara iaitu pemastautin tetap (PR).

"Dua lagi kes baharu membabitkan penularan di dalam negara adalah seorang bukan warganegara ketika saringan pekerja restoran di Wilayah Persekutuan dan seorang warganegara yang juga ahli keluarga pesakit di Selangor.

"Sehubungan itu, kes aktif dengan kebolehjangkitan Covid-19 terus berkurangan kepada 71 kes dan mereka sudah diasingkan serta diberi rawatan di hospital," katanya pada sidang media harian berkaitan Covid-19 di Putrajaya, semalam.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, sehingga kini, dua kes positif Covid-19 dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dan kedua-duanya memerlukan bantuan pernafasan.

Beliau berkata, tiada kematian berkaitan jangkitan Covid-19 dilaporkan semalam menjadikan jumlah kumulatif kes kematian adalah 121 kes iaitu 1.39 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan kes.



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 3

RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Laporan Al Jazeera cemarkan imej negara

Laporan itu juga telah memburukkan nama *frontliners* Malaysia

Oleh ZUBIR SULAIMAN

SHAH ALAM

Laporan berita stesen televisyen antarabangsa Al Jazeera berhubung dakwaan wujud isu perkauman terhadap warga asing ketika negara mengendalikan pandemik Covid-19 mencemarkan imej Malaysia dan memburukkan nama *frontliners*.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba berkata, mereka sepatutnya membantu negara menangani pandemik Covid-19 daripada terus ditularkan namun sebaliknya melalui video itu banyak fakta ter-



DR ADHAM

pesong dipaparkan.

Menurutnya, Al Jazeera perlu faham tugas KKM memastikan keselamatan nyawa rakyat bukan warganegara yang berada di Malaysia.

"Sebab itu kita perlu asingkan mereka jika tempat itu ada wabak. Mereka tidak boleh dihubungi oleh orang luar atau keluar dari kawasan tersebut ataupun sebaliknya," katanya pada rancangan *Selamat Pagi Malaysia* di saluran

TV1 Radio Televisyen Malaysia semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas berhubung laporan dokumentari Al Jazeera yang bertajuk *Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown* berdurasi 25 minit 50 saat yang mendakwa terdapat isu perkauman dalam mengendalikan Covid-19 di Malaysia.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Adham berkata, sekiranya didapati positif selepas disaring bukan warga asing sahaja akan dirawat bahkan kontak rapat juga akan diasingkan serta dikuarantinkan.

"Jadi Al Jazeera sebenarnya sudah memburukkan nama *frontliners* dan mencemarkan imej negara kita dengan laporan itu.

"Sepatutnya mereka perlu belajar dengan pengamal media di Malaysia dan mencontohi bagaimana laporan dibuat dengan begitu tepat sekali gus membantu menyekat penularan Covid-19 di negara ini," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 11

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

Ambil iktibar situasi Victoria

Pelanggaran SOP faktor kes Covid di negeri itu meningkat

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAI RAH TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN**

PUTRAJAYA

Rakyat Malaysia perlu mengambil iktibar terhadap situasi di Victoria, Australia yang menutup pintu masuk kepada orang luar berikutan kes jangkitan Covid-19 di kembali meningkat di negeri berkenaan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, salah satu faktor kes Covid-19 meningkat di negeri itu ialah pelanggaran prosedur operasi standard (SOP) dengan membenarkan



Dr Noor Hisham (tengah) pada sidang media harian berkaitan jangkitan Covid-19 di Kementerian Kesihatan semalam.

mereka yang pulang dari luar negara masih ke negeri berkenaan.

"Kita perlu mengambil iktibar daripada Victoria yang menutup 55 laluan di sempadannya dengan New South Wales," katanya pada sidang media perkembangan terkini Covid-19 di sini semalam.

Beliau bagaimanapun berkata, tidak mustahil untuk Malaysia mencapai sifar kes Covid-19 dengan syarat semua rakyat Malaysia mematuhi SOP ditetapkan.

"Hanya 71 kes di masih dirawat di hospital. Ini satu petunjuk baik untuk kita," katanya.

Dr Noor Hisham berkata, jumlah itu juga menunjukkan kebolehan pesakit dalam komuniti semakin berkurangan.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, tiada kematian akibat Covid-19 direkodkan KKM selama 23 hari berturut-turut.

"Jumlah kumulatif kematian berkaitan wabak itu kekal pada 121 kes."

"Bagaimanapun terdapat lima kes jangkitan baharu yang telah dilaporkan sekali gus menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan meningkat kepada 8,668 kes," katanya.

Sementara itu katanya, tiada jangkitan Covid-19 melibatkan enam pengundi di Pilihan Raya Kecil (PRK) Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Chini yang sebelum ini bergejala.

"Kita telah asingkan mereka yang bergejala dan saringan dilakukan mendapati tiada antara mereka positif Covid-19," katanya.

Kluster Sri Petaling dijangka tamat

PUTRAJAYA - Kluster koronavirus (Covid-19) terbesar di negara ini membabitkan perhimpunan tabligh di Sri Petaling dijangka tamat dalam masa terdekat.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah berkata, ia berikutan tiada kes baharu direkodkan dalam tempoh 14 hari berturut-turut dan hanya satu kes aktif sedang dirawat di hospital.

"Kita jangka dalam tempoh seminggu dua ini kita dapat tamatkan pengawasan kluster ini."

"KKM juga mendapat kerjasama baik daripada tabligh yang turut tampil ke pusat kesihatan untuk membuat saringan," katanya.

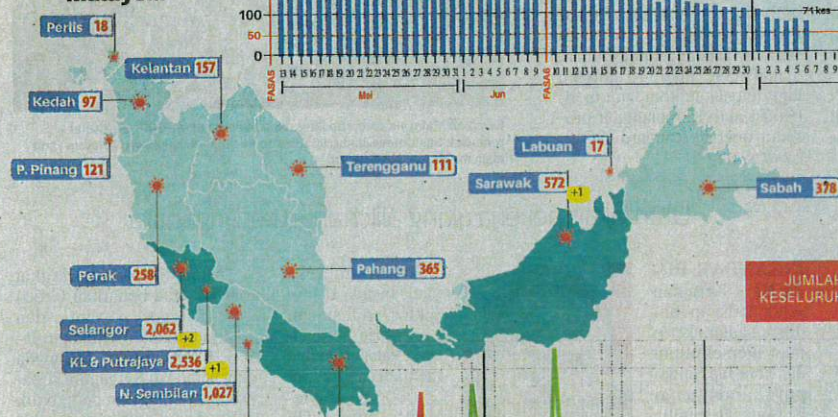
Mengimbau kembali perjalanan Kluster Perhimpunan Sri Petaling, beliau berkata, KKM dimaklumkan mengenai perkara itu selepas lapan hari perhimpunan tersebut selesai.

"Difahamkan, 16,000 telah menghadiri perhimpunan itu dan 14,500 adalah peserta dalam negara yang telah pun pulang ke rumah masing-masing."

"Kes positif kluster ini telah menjangkiti lima generasi," katanya.

SITUASI TERKINI KES COVID-19 DI MALAYSIA SETAKAT SEMALAM

Bilangan kes Covid-19 mengikut negeri di Malaysia

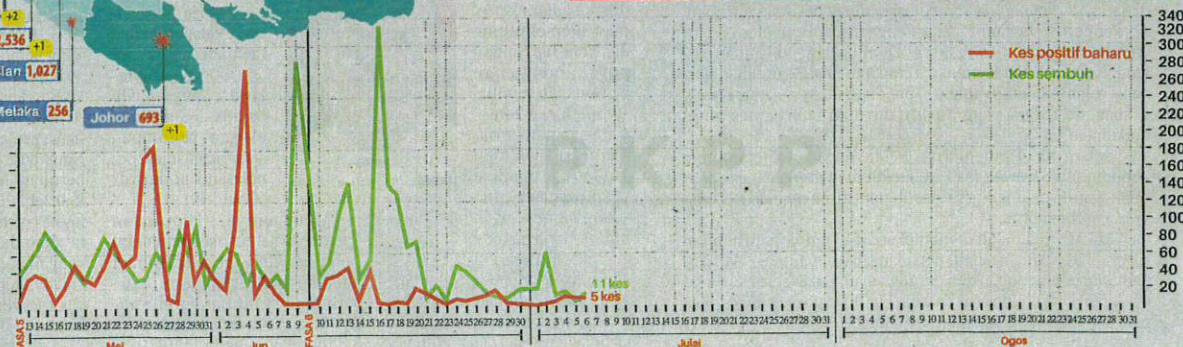


*Dikemas kini pada jam 6 petang 6 Julai 2020

Jumlah jangkitan Covid-19 di Malaysia semalam meningkat daripada 8,663 kes kepada 8,668 kes

JUMLAH KES BAHARU DAN SEMBUH DILAPORKAN SETIAP HARI

JUMLAH KESELURUHAN: **8,668** | **PULIH: 8,476** | **ICU: 2** | **KEMATIAN: 121** | **KES BAHARU: +5**



AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 36

RUANGAN : MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

36



MEMERANGI WABAK COVID-19

SELASA 7 JULAI 2020 • SINAR HARIAN

239 saintis dari 32 negara gesa WHO semak semula risiko penularan koronavirus

NEW YORK

Koronavirus (Covid-19) kini menjangkiti individu di bar, restoran, pejabat, pasar dan kasino selepas gelombang kedua jangkitan wabak itu menyaksikan kewujudan kluster daripada premis terbabit hingga mencetuskan kebimbangan tentang kebenaran amaran saintis sejak beberapa bulan lalu.

Sebelum ini, pakar mendakwa virus tersebut hanya berlegar di ruang udara tertutup sekali gus menjangkiti individu dalam lingkungan berhampiran.

Susulan itu, pemakaian topeng muka mungkin perlu diwajibkan jika berlaku penyebaran melalui bawaan udara terutama di kawasan sesak dengan sistem ventilasi yang lemah.

Selain itu, sistem ventilasi di sekolah, pusat jagaan, kediaman dan premis perniagaan juga mungkin perlu mengurangkan peredaran udara serta memasang penapis baharu yang lebih canggih dan menggunakan sinaran ultraungu untuk membunuh zarah virus yang terapung dalam titisan kecil dalam ruang bangunan.

Ketika kemuncak pandemik itu, Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) mengesahkan Covid-19 disebarkan oleh titisan pernafasan terutamanya apabila pesakit batuk atau bersin.

Bagaimanapun, menerusi surat terbuka kepada agensi kesihatan PBB tersebut, seramai



Seramai 239 saintis dari 32 negara telah mengemukakan bukti Covid-19 boleh disebarkan melalui bawaan udara.

239 saintis dari 32 negara menggariskan bukti menunjukkan zarah kecil yang disebarkan melalui bawaan udara boleh menjangkiti individu dan mengesahkan WHO menyemak semula kenyataannya sebelum ini.

Difahamkan, kumpulan penyelidik terbabit merancang untuk menerbitkan surat tersebut dalam jurnal saintifik.

Pada 29 Jun lalu, WHO menerusi kemas kini terbaharu tentang Covid-19 menyatakan penyebaran melalui bawaan udara berkemungkinan berlaku kerana penghasilan aerosol ia-

itu ampai cecair atau butiran pepejal berukuran lebih kecil daripada saiz lima mikron.

Menurut mereka, pengudaraan yang sempurna dan topeng muka N95 diperlukan untuk keadaan seperti itu.

Sebelum ini, terdapat juga dakwaan penyebaran Covid-19 boleh berlaku menerusi beberapa permukaan objek, namun Pusat Kawalan dan Pencegahan Penyakit Amerika Syarikat menegaskan keadaan tersebut hanya berisiko kecil.

WHO ragu-ragu

Dr Benedetta Allegranzi yang mengetuai pasukan teknikal kawalan jangkitan di WHO menyatakan bukti mendakwa virus Covid-19 boleh disebarkan melalui bawaan udara adalah tidak meyakinkan.

"Ta tidak disokong dengan bukti yang kukuh dan jelas. Terdapat perdebatan yang meluas tentang hal ini," ujarnya.

Namun, temu bual bersama hampir 20 saintis termasuk seramai 12 perunding WHO percaya Covid-19 dapat disebarkan melalui bawaan udara dan menjangkiti individu yang menghirup udara terbabit.

Pada awal April lalu, kumpulan terdiri daripada 36 pakar kualiti udara dan aerosol meng-

gesa WHO mempertimbang bukti yang semakin meningkat tentang penyebaran virus tersebut melalui udara.

Agensi itu dikatakan bertindak balas dengan segera dan meminta perunding mereka, Dr Lidia Morawska mengatur mesyuarat.

Beliau dan beberapa pakar lain turut mengemukakan beberapa contoh insiden yang menunjukkan berlaku penyebaran virus tersebut melalui udara terutamanya di tempat pengudaraan yang sempit dan sesak di ruang tertutup.

WHO telah membuat perbandingan antara titisan kecil aerosol dan titisan besar walaupun individu dijangkiti menghasilkan kedua-duanya.

"Sejak 1946, batuk dan bercakap diketahui menghasilkan aerosol. Saintis tidak dapat menghasilkan koronavirus daripada aerosol di makmal. Namun, tidak bermakna aerosol tidak menular.

"Di kebanyakan bangunan, kadar peredaran udara biasanya lebih rendah sekali gus membolehkan virus berkumpul di udara dan mencetuskan risiko lebih besar," kata pakar penyebaran virus bawaan udara di Virginia Tech, Dr Linsey Marr. Sementara itu, ahli epidemi-

ologi di Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health, Dr Bill Hanage mempunyai pendapat yang berbeza.

"Mereka yang fikir atau bercakap tentang penyebaran melalui bawaan udara sememangnya bodoh. Apa yang kami faham, penularan melalui udara bermaksud titisan berada di ruang udara yang menjangkiti individu selama beberapa jam dan selepas itu berlegar ke tempat lain," katanya.

Langkah berjaga-jaga

Kebanyakan pakar berpendapat WHO sepatutnya mengambil langkah digelar sebagai 'prinsip berjaga-jaga' dan ada juga yang menyebutnya 'keperluan dan nilai' yang bermaksud walaupun tanpa bukti jelas, agensi terbabit perlu bertindak segera dan menyorokkan perlindungan terbaik.

"Kita perlu membuat keputusan walaupun berdepan ketidakpastian. Ia akan menyebabkan kesan lebih buruk jika kita gagal membuat keputusan yang betul. Oleh itu, kita perlu terus memakai topeng muka untuk tempoh beberapa minggu lagi," kata Dr Trish Greenhalgh di Universiti Oxford, United Kingdom.

Sebelum ini, saranan WHO tentang garis panduan pemakaian topeng muka sering berubah-ubah.

Awal Jun lalu, agensi terbabit menyarankan topeng muka dipakai di tempat awam yang sukar melakukan penjarakan sosial walaupun sebelum ini ia menyatakan tiada bukti mencukupi yang memerlukan individu sihat memakai pelitup muka.

Pakar teknikal Covid-19 di WHO, Dr Maria Van Kerkhove berkata, mereka mencadangkan orang ramai memakai topeng muka diperbuat daripada fabrik yang mengandungi tiga lapisan berbeza untuk memastikan keberkesanannya mencegah penyebaran virus tersebut.

Pada masa sama, WHO menegaskan topeng muka cuma alat untuk mengurangkan risiko penyebaran.

"Topeng muka tidak akan melindungi anda daripada Covid-19," ujar Ketua WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. - Agensi



Saranan WHO tentang pemakaian topeng muka juga sering berubah-ubah sebelum ini.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NEWS / STORY OF THE DAY

Health D-G: New Covid-19 strain to be studied

PUTRAJAYA: The Institute of Medical Research (IMR) will conduct more studies to identify a new strain of Covid-19 known as G614, which is spreading from Europe to the United States.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said this would allow IMR to get a better look at the strain.

"This is an opportunity for us to learn about the virus. By doing so, perhaps we can come up with a vaccine and treatment for it," he said yesterday.

He was responding to a question on a study published by the journal *Cell*.

In the study, it was found that the new G614

strain was more infectious than its predecessor, spreading from Europe to the US.

"For the past six months, we have learned many things about Covid-19. To compare it with other coronaviruses, we found that Covid-19 is easily spread in the last six months and has infected more than 10 million people worldwide."

Malaysia yesterday recorded five new cases, bringing the total number to 8,668.

Dr Noor Hisham said from the five, three were imported involving two Malaysians and a non-Malaysian, who is a permanent resident.

"One of the locally-transmitted cases was detected in Kuala Lumpur involving a foreigner following a screening held in the community by the health district office. Another locally-transmitted case involved a Malaysian in Selangor after a screening of close contacts of Case 8,649. This new case is a family member of Case 8,649."

Malaysia has 71 active cases. Eleven more patients were discharged from hospitals yesterday, bringing the number of recoveries to 8,476 (97.7 per cent of the total cases).

No new fatalities were reported, leaving the death toll at 121 (1.39 per cent).

He expressed confidence that the Sri Petaling Covid-19 cluster

would end soon.

The cluster, which arose from a mass tabligh gathering between Feb 27 and March 1, has not recorded new cases for 14 consecutive days and has only one active case left.

"We hope that in a week or two, we can end the monitoring and surveillance of the cluster."

He said when the ministry was informed of the gathering on March 9, most of the participants had returned to their home countries or hometowns.

The ministry, he said, was informed that 16,000 people had taken part in the gathering, with 1,500 participants from abroad and 14,500 Malaysians.

"What we did was a unified effort by all parties (between the Health Ministry and other agencies) to detect and stem the transmission of Covid-19 among tabligh participants."

A total of 42,023 samples were taken from the cluster, with 3,375 individuals testing positive for Covid-19, including one current active case.

"A total of 3,340 people have recovered and 34 deaths were recorded from the cluster."

Dr Noor Hisham urged Malaysians to continue complying with the standard operating procedure outlined by the ministry.



Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 14

RUANGAN : NEWS / NEWS IN BRIEFS



Muhammad Suhaimi Ali painting the portraits of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah in Shah Alam on Sunday. BERNAMA PIC

Mural artist's expression of gratitude to nation's leaders

SHAH ALAM

THE wall on the side of a building in Taman Cahaya Alam, Seksyen U12 here, which used to be vandalised with graffiti, has been replaced with a giant art exhibit featuring the faces of the country's leaders.

Portraits of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah are among the faces adorning the wall of the building, painted by mural artist Miey Ali.

Initially, Miey Ali, whose real name is Muhammad Suhaimi Ali, 27, only intended to beautify the area. He had not expected his artwork to become a hit on social media.

Helped by his friends, Abdul Hadi Ramli, 27, and Firdaus Nordin, 26, the Terengganu-born artist took two weeks to paint five mural portraits.

At first, he said he only intended to paint the mural portrait of the king as a token of gratitude for the monarch's wisdom in ad-

ressing and resolving the political crisis in February.

"But during the enforcement of the Movement Control Order, we saw other leaders providing updates and planning strategies to curb the spread of Covid-19. So these faces also appeared on the mural.

"This is how my friends and I express our gratitude to leaders and frontliners because when the Covid-19 outbreak first hit the country, they were the ones who had so much to do to make sure the people were safe.

"Not many people know where the mural is since the area is quite hidden, but people have asked me via WhatsApp about the location. I was touched when people as far as Johor came just to snap photos with our painting."

Miey Ali has painted more than 200 murals nationwide since he first dabbled in the art four years ago.

The Fine Arts graduate said he wanted to paint other personalities like the late Tan Sri P. Ramlee, actor and comedian Datuk Aziz Sattar and S. Shamsuddin, if he had the space and time. **Bernama**

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NATION

8 Nation

THE STAR, TUESDAY 7 JULY 2020

Covid-19: Current situation globally (As of 7pm July 6, 2020)

	Malaysia												New cases	Total cases	Total deaths	Total recovered
													5	8,668	121	8,476
Asean+	China	Indonesia	Singapore	Philippines	Japan	S. Korea	Thailand	Vietnam	Myanmar	Brunei	Cambodia	Laos				
Confirmed cases	83,557	64,958	44,983	46,333	19,522	13,137	3,195	355	313	141	141	19				
Deaths	4,634	3,241	26	1,303	977	284	58	0	6	3	0	0				
Recovered	78,518	29,919	40,441	12,185	17,050	11,848	3,072	340	241	138	131	19				
Global Top 10	US	Brazil	India	Russia	Peru	Spain	Chile	UK	Mexico	Iran						
Confirmed cases	2,983,155	1,604,585	700,724	687,862	302,718	297,625	295,532	285,416	256,848	243,051						
Deaths	132,571	64,900	19,714	10,296	10,589	28,385	6,308	44,220	30,639	11,731						
Recovered	1,289,687	978,615	425,568	454,329	193,957	N/A	261,032	N/A	155,604	204,083						

One Sri Petaling tabligh case left

DG: Malaysia's biggest Covid-19 cluster finally nearing its closure after four months

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's biggest Covid-19 cluster – the Sri Petaling tabligh gathering – is finally nearing its closure after four months, with only one active case left under the cluster, says the Health Ministry.

"This is a success. There has been a strong concerted effort involving the ministry and many other agencies to take action as soon as we detected this cluster."

"We managed to trace many of the participants of the gathering. Those who attended also cooperated well with us," said Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

About 40% of Malaysia's Covid-19 cases are linked to the religious gathering, with the cases spanning five generations.

Dr Noor Hisham hopes the ministry can end its monitoring of the cluster in "one or two weeks".

The tabligh gathering at Masjid Jamek Sri Petaling was held from Feb 27 to March 1, with over 16,000 people believed to have attended throughout that weekend. About 1,500 of them are foreigners.

In total, 42,023 individuals have been tested under this cluster, with 3,375 testing positive.

The cluster saw 34 deaths, which is 28% of the total fatalities in the country.

Earlier, Dr Noor Hisham announced only five new cases yesterday, of which three were imported and two were local transmissions.

One of the local cases was a



foreign restaurant worker who was detected from a screening conducted by the district health office in Kuala Lumpur.

The other local case, which was detected in Selangor, is a family member of Patient 8649.

There were no deaths and 11 more patients were discharged yesterday, reducing the number of active cases in the country to 71.

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Hisham reminded Malaysians not to take

the improving situation of Covid-19 in the country lightly, citing examples in other countries where the outbreak had made a return.

"We have seen in other countries where they managed to control the infection, but the moment they ease and relax restrictions, and people do not comply with the SOP, Covid-19 makes a comeback."

"So it is important to keep complying with the SOP set by the ministry," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said the Australian state of Victoria announced the shutdown of 55 entry points at its border with New South Wales following escalation of Covid-19 cases.

He said one of the factors contributing to the spread of the virus in

some major cities was the "infringement of SOP" at quarantine centres by individuals returning from overseas.

"The ministry hopes that all travellers returning to Malaysia will continue to cooperate with the ministry and comply with the terms and requirements under the home surveillance order (HSO)," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said that out of 5,804 individuals placed under the HSO, 414 individuals had yet to undergo the compulsory day-13 Covid-19 testing.

Watch the video
thetartv.com



Returnees must take Covid-19 antigen rapid test

By LOH FOON FONG
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KUALA LUMPUR: Following the mandatory Covid-19 test on all returnees from overseas, some have asked whether they need to take all the three types of tests listed by the government or choose only one.

There was also a question about whether one of the tests listed – the antibody rapid test – should be used to test current infection.

The Health Ministry, in a reply to *The Star*, said that returnees must take the Covid-19 antigen rapid test to find out whether they were infected.

(The antigen test is the faster way to test the presence of ongoing infection although the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is the gold standard but takes a longer time.)

The ministry said returnees were required to install and register with the MySejahtera app (<https://mysejahtera.malaysia.gov.my/>)



Quicker result: The antigen rapid test kits being used in India showing negative results. — AFP

before returning to Malaysia.

Essential information such as travel date and time, flight information, port of embarkation, seat number as well as health declaration need to be registered in the MySejahtera app at least one day from date of departure.

Upon arrival at the point of entry, returnees will be held at the holding

hall and are required to scan the arrival QR code of the MySejahtera app.

"They will then undergo thermal scanning and symptom screening, and a Covid-19 antigen rapid test."

"However, returnees who provide valid polymerase chain reaction (PCR) Covid-19 test result will be exempted from the antigen test,"

said Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

He said all returnees who tested positive for Covid-19 would be referred to the Covid-19 referral hospital whether they have symptoms or not, and regardless of their nationality.

The government started imposing Covid-19 test fee on June 29 at international entry points on those entering Malaysia, before they are let off by the Immigration Department.

The charges are also applicable to those who wish to be tested at the Health Ministry's hospitals or clinics.

The fee for a Malaysian stated in the regulations are RM150 for a polymerase chain reaction method (for foreigners, the fee is RM250); RM60 for an antigen rapid test kit (RM120 for foreigners), and RM30 for an antibody rapid test kit (RM60 for foreigners).

The fees were enforced through the Prevention and Control of

Infectious Diseases (fee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) detection test) Regulations 2020.

Asked the reason for the antibody test being used on returnees on the 13th day for those quarantined at home when it could not determine whether the infection was a current or past infection, Dr Noor Hisham said the antibody test was used on those who had tested negative before or upon entering Malaysia.

He also explained that the body starts having Immunoglobulin G (IgG) response from day seven from the onset of symptoms.

"We expect those who tested negative earlier to have no antibody at all. Once they have tested negative with the antibody test, and confirm that there is no (SARS-CoV-2) virus in the body, we will release them from home quarantine."

"If antibody is present, we will proceed with the reverse transcription PCR and if tested positive, we will admit them into hospital," he said.

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