AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

107 di AKEPT boleh pulang

Ujian ulangan dapati semua dikuarantin negatif COVID-19

Oleh Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
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Antara 107 rakyat Malaysia yang dibawa pulang dari Wuhan dibenarkan keluar selepas dikuarantin dua minggu di AKEPT, Nilai, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

Aksi ceria rakyat Malaysia yang dibenarkan pulang selepas dikuarantin.

Putrajaya: Semua 107 rakyat Malaysia yang dibawa pulang dari Wuhan, China pada 4 Februari lalu kini dibenarkan pulang selepas menjalani kuarantin selama dua minggu di Akademi Kepimpinan Pendidikan Tinggi (AKEPT), Nilai.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata jumlah berkenaan termasuk dua individu yang sebelum ini dilapor positif COVID-19.

Beliau berkata, semua mereka dibenarkan pulang setelah menjalani dua ujian ulangan dan mendapat keputusan negatif.

"Mereka sudah dibenarkan pulang ke rumah masing-masing, semalam selepas menamatkan tempoh pemantauan. Bagaimanapun, seorang daripada mereka sedang menerima rawatan di wad bagi isu kesihatan yang dialami beliau.

"Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) ingin mengucapkan syabas dan tahniah kepada semua agensi yang terbabit dalam menjayakan misi ini," katanya pada sidang media harian COVID-19 di kementeriannya, di sini, semalam.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, tiada kes baharu dilaporkan semalam dan jumlah kumulatif kes COVID-19 yang dilaporkan hingga kini kekal sebanyak 22.

"Hingga hari ini (semalam), seramai 583 pesakit bawah pemantauan (PUI) dilaporkan di Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat Krisis (CPRC) Kebangsaan. Bagi kontak rapat untuk kes positif pula, sebanyak 230 kes dikesan negatif dan 13 kes masih menunggu keputusan makmal," katanya.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, dalam kenyataan berasingan malam tadi memaklumkan dua lagi pesakit iaitu kes ke-7 dan ke-8 positif iaitu sepasang suami isteri warga China yang dirawat di Hospital Permai, Johor Bahru telah sembuh sepenuhnya selepas ujian ulangan dua kali berturut-turut adalah didapati negatif.

Kedua-dua pesakit telah dibenarkan pulang pada petang semalam. Dengan itu, semua kes positif COVID-19 yang dirawat di Hospital Permai, Johor Bahru telah sembuh sepenuhnya.

Berikutan itu, jumlah keseluruhan kes sudah dibenarkan pulang dari wad setakat ini ialah 13.

Malaysia belum cadang bawa pulang dua rakyat di Jepun

Putrajaya: Kerajaan belum bercadang untuk membawa pulang dua rakyat Malaysia yang disyaki positif COVID-19 yang sedang dirawat di Jepun.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, berkata kes berkenaan masih baharu dan masih menunggu keputusan ujian COVID-19.

Beliau yang juga Pengerusi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA) berkata, sekiranya kedua-dua suspek disahkan positif COVID-19 mereka perlu dikuarantin dan menerima rawatan di negara itu.

Beliau berkata demikian pada Majlis Menandatangani Memorandum Perjanjian & Penyerahan Tajaan Kumpulan Sunway Bagi Penubuhan Sunway Forgood Anjung Kasih Yayasan Kebajikan Nasional (YKN) Hospital Seberang Jaya, Pulau Pinang di Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga Dan Masyarakat di sini, semalam.

Kelmarin media melaporkan dua rakyat Malaysia di atas kapal *Diamond Princess*, yang berlabuh dan sedang dikuarantin di Pelabuhan Yokohama, Jepun, disahkan positif COVID-19 dan dirawat di negara itu.

Kapal persiaran *Diamond Princess* yang sedang dikuarantin itu, mencatatkan kes kluster terbesar di luar China dengan 455 orang yang diuji disahkan positif.

Dalam perkembangan sama, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah menerusi Facebook berkata, dua rakyat Malaysia di atas kapal persiaran yang positif sedang dirawat di Jepun manakala dua lagi masih menunggu keputusan ujian COVID-19.

Kapal persiaran itu tiba di perairan Jepun pada awal Februari membawa lebih 3,700 penumpang dan anak kapal dari lebih 50 negara.

Ia dikuarantin selepas pihak berkuasa menemui penumpang yang turun dari bot di Hong Kong ketika pelayaran kapal itu didapati positif virus berkenaan.

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Penularan COVID-19

WHO puji Malaysia

Pertubuhan syor perluas pemantauan, jalani ujian pesakit SARI

Oleh Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
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Dr Dzulkefly ketika telesidang bersama Dr Ghebreyesus di Kementerian Kesihatan, Putrajaya, semalam. (Foto ihsan Kementerian Kesihatan)

Putrajaya: Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) memuji kesiapsiagaan dan keupayaan Malaysia dalam menangani jangkitan COVID-19.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata pujian itu disuarakan Ketua Pengarah WHO, Dr Tendros Adhanom Ghebreyesus pada satu telesidang yang diadakan di kementeriannya, semalam.

WHO turut memandang tinggi kesihatan awam negara serta mencadangkan Malaysia untuk memperluaskan aktiviti pemantauan dengan menjalankan ujian COVID-19 ke atas pesakit Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI).

"Pihak kementerian turut memaklumkan kepada WHO bahawa kementerian ini sudah memperluaskan pemantauan jangkitan salur pernafasan dengan menjalankan ujian COVID-19. Kementerian akan terus bekerjasama dengan WHO dan beberapa pihak yang terbabit," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang media COVID-19 selepas mengadakan telesidang selama 20 minit bersama Dr Tendros, di kementeriannya, di sini, semalam.

Sementara itu, ketika ditanya sama ada dua rakyat Malaysia yang kini dirawat di Jepun kerana positif COVID-19 akan dibawa pulang ke Malaysia, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, pihaknya memutuskan supaya pesakit dirawat di negara berkenaan hingga sembuh.

"Mereka kini di bawah pemerhatian Jepun, kita izinkan mereka dirawat di sana. Itu adalah protokolnya sebagaimana kita lakukan di negara ini (merawat warga asing)," katanya.

Penghantar barang nafi pertuduhan sebar berita palsu

Kuala Lumpur: Seorang penghantar barang dituduh di mahkamah semalam kerana menyebar berita palsu mengenai penularan jangkitan COVID-19, menjadikan empat individu didakwa setakat ini.

Shamsul Anuar Mohd Khairi, 42, mengaku tidak bersalah selepas pertuduhan terhadapnya dibacakan di hadapan Majistret M Saravanan.

Lelaki itu didakwa membuat kenyataan menerusi Facebook mengenai jangkitan COVID-19 di dalam bas persiaran di negara ini yang digunakan oleh pelancong dari China.

Jangkitan itu akan aktif apabila berlaku musim panas melampau, dengan niat hendak atau mungkin menyebabkan ketakutan supaya orang awam terdorong melakukan sesuatu kesalahan terhadap ketenteraman awam.

Kesalahan itu didakwa dilakukan di Wangsa Maju di sini pada jam 9.53 pagi, 27 Januari lalu mengikut Seksyen 505 (b) Kanun Keseksaan yang memperuntukkan hukuman penjara maksimum dua tahun atau boleh dikenakan denda atau kedua-duanya, jika sabit kesalahan.

Timbalan Pendakwa Raya Rajdeep Singh tidak menawarkan jaminan kerana kesalahan itu tidak boleh dijamin.

Bagaimanapun, peguam P Suthes yang mewakili Shamsul Anuar memohon supaya anak guamnya dibenarkan diikat jamin kerana tertuduh penanggung tunggal keluarga dengan pendapatan RM1,500 sebulan.

"Anak guam saya mempunyai lima anak yang masih bersekolah serta seorang isteri tidak bekerja. Saya juga mohon jaminan minimum," katanya.

Mahkamah membenarkan tertuduh diikat jamin RM6,500 dengan seorang penjamin berserta syarat tambahan perlu melaporkan diri seminggu sekali di Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah (IPD) Dang Wangi dan pasport diserahkan kepada mahkamah sehingga kes selesai.

Mahkamah menetapkan 10 April untuk sebutan semula kes.

BERNAMA

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 9
RUANGAN : LOKAL

IRWAN pada sidang media ketika proses keluar dari Pusat Pemantauan di AKEPT, semalam.

8 lagi rakyat Malaysia selesai jalani kuarantin dibenarkan pulang hari ini

'Kami terbukti bebas Covid-19'

VIRUS WUHAN

Oleh Amir Abd Hamid
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Nilai

"Masyarakat perlu yakin...kami terbukti bebas virus Covid-19...Insya-Allah," kata Irwan Rustang, 36.

Dia adalah seorang daripada 102 rakyat Malaysia dikuarantin di Akademi Kepimpinan Pendidikan Tinggi (Akept) di sini, sejak 14 hari lalu sebelum dibenarkan pulang ke rumah masing-masing semalam.

Baki lapan lagi rakyat Malaysia yang selesai menjalani kuarantin pula akan dibenarkan pulang hari ini.

Mereka adalah individu dibawa pulang dari Wuhan, China pada 4 Februari lalu melalui misi khas kerajaan Malaysia ekoran penularan wabak Covid-19.

Irwan berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) melaksanakan tiga kali saringan terhadap mereka.

"Pada masa sama, setiap hari pihak KKM datang ke bilik kami untuk memantau suhu badan.

"Semua keputusan adalah negatif atau tiada sebarang simptom Convid-19. Prosedur saringan ini sama seperti dilaksanakan di negara lain dan disahkan oleh Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO). Jadi masyarakat kena yakin dengan kami dan jangan bimbang," katanya.

Bercerita pengalamannya di Wuhan, dia bersyukur berikutan, isteri, Nurul Farhana Md Sahal, 32, serta dua anak iaitu Muhammad Irfan Irsyad, empat tahun, dan Putri Insyirah Wafa, tiga tahun, tidak berhadapan masalah bekalan makanan biarpun kerajaan China mengarahkan perintah kurungan di bandar Wuhan dan wilayah Hubei pada 23 Januari lalu.

Katanya, anak bongsunya Putri Inara Falisha berusia lapan bulan tidak dibawa ke Wuhan dan dijaga ibunya di Keningau, Sabah.

Dia yang bekerja sebagai perancang projek di syarikat Boustead Naval Shipyard Sdn Bhd di Wuhan berkata, dia sempat menyediakan bekalan makanan sebelum perisytiharan perintah kurungan diumumkan.

"Saya dihubungi pihak Kedutaan Malaysia di Beijing pada 27 Januari untuk mengemaskini data sebelum dibawa pulang ke tanah air (4 Februari)," katanya.

Menurutnya, dia sebenarnya sudah mengetahui lebih awal maklumat mengenai virus Convid-19 yang tersebar di Wuhan namun tidak menyangka bertukar menjadi darurat.

Disebabkan itu, katanya, dia juga membeli penutup muka dan mulut lebih awal sebelum pengumuman China sebagai persediaan untuk keluarganya.

"Apa pun saya gembira hari ini (semalam) dikeluarkan dari kuarantin.

"Saya juga ingin berterima kasih kepada pihak pengurusan yang menjaga kami termasuk makan minum dan memuaskan keperluan kami. Empat kali makan dalam sehari.

"Sebenarnya, bukan mudah kerajaan nak bawa kami pulang ke tanah air berikutan situasi genting di Wuhan dan Hubei. Namun segala-galanya berjalan lancar," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pegawai Perubatan Penyelaras Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) Seremban, Dr Nur Adibah Shaharul berkata, setiap individu terbabit menjalani ujian sampel sebanyak tiga kali sepanjang tempoh di bawah pengawasan *Patient-Under-Investigation (PUI)* jangkitan Covid-19.

102 dari Wuhan dibenarkan pulang

Putrajaya: Semua 102 rakyat Malaysia yang dibawa pulang dari Wuhan, China 4 Februari lalu, kini dibenarkan pulang selepas menjalani kuarantin selama dua minggu di Pusat Pengawasan yang terletak di Akademi Kepimpinan Pendidikan Tinggi (AKEPT), Nilai.

DR Dzulkefly

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata jumlah berkenaan termasuklah dua individu yang sebelum ini dilaporkan positif Covid-19.

Katanya, semua mereka dibenarkan pulang selepas menjalani dua ujian ulangan dan mendapat keputusan negatif.

"Mereka sudah dibenarkan pulang ke rumah masing-masing hari ini (semalam) selepas menamatkan tempoh pemantauan, bagaimanapun seorang daripada mereka menerima rawatan di wad bagi isu kesihatan yang dialami beliau.

"Pihak KKM ingin mengucapkan syabas dan tahniah kepada semua agensi yang terbabit dalam menjayakan misi ini," katanya pada sidang media harian isu Covid-19 di kementeriannya di sini, semalam.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, sehubungan itu jumlah keseluruhan kes yang dibenarkan pulang daripada wad ialah sebanyak 11 kes.

"KKM juga ingin memaklumkan tiada kes baharu dilaporkan semalam dan jumlah kumulatif kes COVID-19 yang dilaporkan sehingga kini kekal sebanyak 22 kes.

"Sehingga hari ini (semalam), sebanyak 583 pesakit di bawah pemantauan (PUI) dilaporkan di Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat Krisis (CPRC) Kebangsaan, bagi kontak rapat untuk kes yang positif pula sebanyak 230 kes dikesan negatif dan 13 kes masih menunggu keputusan makmal," katanya.

RINGKAS

Dua rakyat Malaysia disahkan positif

Putrajaya: Dua rakyat Malaysia penumpang kapal Diamond Princess, yang berlabuh dan dikuarantin di Pelabuhan Yokohama, Jepun, disahkan positif Covid-19.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah menerusi catatan di Facebook rasmi miliknya semalam berkata, selain itu dua lagi rakyat Malaysia masih menunggu keputusan ujian Covid-19.

"Kapal persiaran Diamond Princess yang dikuarantin, mencatatkan kes kluster terbesar di luar China dengan lebih 400 penumpang diuji dan disahkan positif.

"Dua rakyat Malaysia disahkan positif Covid-19 dan dua lagi masih menunggu keputusan ujian Covid-19.

"Kedua-dua mereka yang positif dirawat di Jepun," menurut catatan itu.

Kapal persiaran Diamond Princess yang dikuarantin, catatkan kes kluster terbesar di luar China

WHO puji Malaysia tangani Covid-19

Putrajaya: Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) memuji kesiapsiagaan dan keupayaan Malaysia dalam menangani jangkitan Covid-19.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, pujian itu diberikan Ketua Pengarah WHO, Dr Tendros Adhanom Ghebreyesus dalam satu sidang video yang diadakan di kementerian itu, semalam.

Katanya, pihak WHO turut memandang tinggi kesihatan awam serta mencadangkan Malaysia untuk memperluaskan aktiviti pemantauan dengan menjalankan ujian Covid-19 kepada pesakit Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI).

"Pihak kementerian turut memaklumkan kepada WHO bahawa kementerian ini sudah memperluaskan pemantauan jangkitan salur pernafasan dengan menjalankan ujian Covid-19," katanya.

Tiada permohonan bawa masuk warga asing

Putrajaya: Tiada sebarang permohonan daripada pihak majikan bagi membawa masuk warga asing untuk bekerja di kilang pembuatan topeng hidung dan mulut susulan penularan Covid-19.

Timbalan Menteri Sumber Manusia, Datuk Mahfuz Omar berkata, majikan perlu memohon terlebih dahulu kepada kementeriannya sebelum dibenarkan membawa masuk pekerja warga asing.

Katanya, sekiranya pekerja warga asing terbabit memenuhi syarat Kementerian Dalam Negeri (KDN), pihaknya tiada halangan untuk mempercepatkan proses permohonan kemasukan mereka.

"Kami akan pertimbangkan (kemasukan pekerja warga asing) bila memenuhi syarat yang ditetapkan KDN serta Jabatan Tenaga Kerja (JTK), kita tiada masalah (untuk bawa masuk) kalau itu yang dihadapi oleh syarikat pengeluar topeng mulut dan hidung.

"Mengenai berapa jumlah yang akan dibawa masuk, kita lihat pada permohonan majikan. Sehingga kini tiada permohonan diterima, (proses bawa masuk pekerja asing) perlu melalui permohonan," katanya.

Nafi tular kenyataan palsu

Kuala Lumpur: Seorang penghantar barang mengaku tidak bersalah di Mahkamah Majistret di sini, semalam atas pertuduhan membuat kenyataan palsu berhubung penularan wabak koronavirus baharu (Covid-19) di laman profil Facebooknya.

Shamsul Anuar Mohd Khairi, 42, membuat pengakuan itu selepas pertuduhan terhadapnya dibacakan di hadapan Majistret M Saravanan.

Lelaki itu didakwa membuat kenyataan dalam laman 'Facebook' mengenai jangkitan Covid-19 di dalam bas persiaran di negara ini yang digunakan oleh pelancong dari China dan jangkitan itu akan aktif apabila berlaku musim panas melampau.

Tertuduh didakwa melakukan perbuatan itu dengan niat hendak atau mungkin menyebabkan ketakutan kepada awam.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NEWS/STORY OF THE DAY

COVID-19 INFECTION

DZULKEFLY: NO NEW CASES REPORTED

107 people brought back from Wuhan allowed to go home after being cleared of virus infection

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THE 107 Malaysians and their family members who were quarantined at the Higher Education Leadership Academy in Bandar Enstek, Nilai, Negri Sembilan, have been cleared of Covid-19 infection.

"They have been cleared of Covid-19 and allowed to go home, except for one person who has been warded for an unrelated health problem," said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

The 107 people were brought back under the Special Humanitarian Mission following the novel coronavirus outbreak earlier this month.

Dr Dzulkefly said two confirmed cases, a father and his son, had also recovered and were allowed to go home.

"As of today (yesterday), the number of confirmed cases stood at 22. Eleven have recovered while another 11 are being treated in the isolation ward. No new cases were reported today (yesterday).

"We also have 583 people under investigation and 230 cases of close-contact at the Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre. The 230 people tested negative for the virus, and we are waiting for the results of 13 more close-contact cases.

"The standard operating procedure is for the test to be conducted more than once, with a negative result, before the person is given a clean bill," he said at a press conference here.

Present were Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye and deputy health director-general (public health) Datuk Dr Chong Chee Kheong.

Dr Dzulkefly, who had a discussion with World Health Organisation director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus via teleconference earlier, said WHO had expressed concern over public health in Malaysia and suggested that the Covid-19 test be conducted on all severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases as well.

"He (Dr Ghebreyesus) inquired about our state of preparedness and crisis management. WHO advised us to carry out influenza surveillance by testing SARI patients for Covid-19. We, however, told them that we had widened the treatment and testing processes for patients with breathing and respiratory-related problems on top of the suggested influenza surveillance."

Dr Dzulkefly said the ministry would continue to work with WHO and health agencies to ensure the situation was under control.

He said only four Malaysians were on board the *Diamond Princess* cruise liner that was anchored and quarantined at Yokohama Port in Japan.

He said two of them had tested positive for Covid-19 while the other two were waiting for test results.

"So far, the two who have tested positive for Covid-19 are receiving treatment at a hospital in Japan."

He said there were no plans to bring them back home as they were undergoing treatment.

"Just like what we do here to patients or cases from other countries, we can only release them (those who tested positive) from hospital when they are free from the virus by testing them twice."

Dr Dzulkefly was responding to a question on whether the two Malaysians would be brought back home for treatment.

The *Diamond Princess* cruise ship was scheduled to dock on Feb 4. However, a 14-day quarantine was imposed on the passengers on board when 10 of them tested positive for the virus.

Dr Dzulkefly said samples from the passengers were taken in batches.

To date, 542 people on board the ship have tested positive, making it the biggest cluster of Covid-19 outbreak outside China.

On another humanitarian mission to evacuate Malaysians in Wuhan, Dr Dzulkefly said the decision would be made by the National Disaster Management Agency and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

"There have been no new instructions yet."

The humanitarian mission to evacuate Malaysians and their families from the epicentre of the virus on Feb 4 saw 141 Malaysians listed to board the flight home.

However, due to road closures and other logistical factors, only 107 boarded the flight home.

Page 1 pic: Two women who were placed under quarantine for 14 days at the quarantine facility at the Higher Education Leadership Academy in Bandar Enstek, Nilai, Negri Sembilan, leaving after being cleared of Covid-19 infection. BERNAMA PIC

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad having a discussion with World Health Organisation director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus via teleconference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF HEALTH MINISTRY

Evacuees relieved after tests come out negative

NILAI: "Please believe us, we are free from Covid-19, *Insya-Allah*," said Irwan Rustang.

The 36-year-old is one of the 107 Malaysians who were placed under quarantine at the Higher Education Leadership Academy in Bandar Enstek here who were allowed to go home yesterday following the completion of the quarantine period.

The remaining eight Malaysians are expected to return home today. They were among those who were evacuated from Wuhan, China, on Feb 4 following the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

Irwan said the Health Ministry conducted three tests on them to detect the presence of the virus.

"All the test results were negative, apart from the fact that we displayed no symptoms of the disease."

He said the ministry officials also took the temperatures of the evacuees daily.

"The tests followed the World Health Organisation guidelines, and were also done in other countries. Therefore, the public has to be certain of its effectiveness and need not worry about us."

He said he was thankful that his family, including his wife Nurul Farhana Md Sahal, 32, and their two children, were safe.

Putri Insyirah Wafa, 30, said she was in Wuhan when the Chinese government locked down the city on Jan 23.

"I knew that it would be hard to get food, especially after the Chinese New Year. So I had made plans to stock up on food.

"Following Wuhan's lockdown, the Malaysian embassy contacted me on Jan 27 to update us on the situation before flying us back home," said Putri, who works as a project planner at Boustead Naval Shipyard Sdn Bhd in Wuhan.

She said her youngest daughter, Putri Inara Falisha, who is 8 months' old, was not in China as she was with her family in Keningau, Sabah.

"I am relieved to have been given a clean bill of health. I thank the management for looking after us and ensuring our wellbeing."

Seremban district health officer Dr Nur Adibah Shaharul said each individual had been tested three times at the facility for patient under investigation from Covid-19 infection.

"The first sample was taken on Feb 4 at the Air Disaster Unit upon the arrival of the evacuees at the Klia 2.

"The following tests were done on Feb 10 and yesterday (Feb 17)," she said. **By Amir Abd Hamid**

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS

Quarantine routine

Malaysians kept under surveillance treated well, says deputy health minister

BY **ALISHA NUR MOHD NOOR**
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PETALING JAYA: Curious to know how the daily lives of the 107 Malaysians kept under surveillance at the Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT) felt like?

Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye shared with *theSun* how those under quarantine had been cared for after they were all allowed to go home yesterday.

Lee said meals were prepared by a Welfare Department (JKM) team and delivered to their respective rooms.

"Wuhan evacuees under special quarantine at AKEPT received meals from a dedicated team from JKM. The meals – which were packed in meal box containers – were delivered to their respective rooms based on their dietary preferences."

He added they were given four meals daily, namely breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner.

"A team from JKM and the Ministry of Health (MOH) would review the menu from time to time to ensure their dietary requirements were met.

"The food provider's premises was also inspected by MOH for compliance of health standards."

Besides meals, he said a medical team from MOH carried out daily medical and health screening to ensure that those who were quarantined for 14 days were in the best possible mental and physical health.

MOH also deployed a Psychological First Aid team to monitor their psycho-social condition and to reduce the stress of those under quarantine as well as that of duty officers."

When it came to daily activities of those under quarantine, Lee said they were given daily updates of the programme via WhatsApp and WeChat.

He said there was adequate entertainment for those kept in isolation at the academy, as free internet connection and televisions were provided in each room.

He thanked the Education Ministry and the academy for providing a conducive facility for the returnees.

Malaysians who were quarantined at AKEPT returning home home yesterday.

Vernacular press digest

I thought I was dying, says cured virus victim

BY **KONG SEE HOH**
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A SINGAPOREAN woman who won the battle against Covid-19 has described her "near-death" ordeal.

"I really thought I was going to die," said the 47-year-old, identified only as Madam Chang in an *Oriental Daily News* report yesterday.

Chang, who migrated to Singapore from China 20 years ago, was the republic's 15th confirmed Covid-19 case.

She and her family were visiting Wuhan when the coronavirus epidemic broke out and were among 95 Singaporeans flown back to Singapore on a specially-chartered flight on Jan 30.

She developed a fever on arrival in Singapore and was confirmed to have contracted the virus the following day.

Recalling her 16 days in isolation, Chang said although she was alright the first two days, she started to experience breathing difficulties on day three.

"I was very scared. The oxygen delivered to me through a nasal cannula was slowly increased to six litres/minute from one litre/minute initially."

She said the increase in oxygen flow did not help much as her lungs were losing their function.

At one point, she thought she was at death's door.

"I really felt I was dying. I was asking myself whether I was about to die."

She said she was unable to move but her mind was still alert and she could clearly hear the conversations between the doctors and nurses, adding that although her condition was critical, the medical team, particularly a Filipino doctor, kept assuring her that she would be alright and that the nasal cannula would help her breathe.

Although Chang was declared free of the virus on day 16, her son, who also tested positive for Covid-19, was still being warded.

However, she was optimistic her son would pull though, given that he had so far not exhibited any of the severe symptoms she had experienced.

107 M'sians flown back from Wuhan get greenlight to go home

BY **RAJVINDER SINGH**
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PUTRAJAYA: All 107 Malaysians flown back from Wuhan on Feb 4 received the green light to go home, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (*pix*).

They were put through two tests for the Covid-19 virus and all tested negative.

"Two others, a father and son from Wuhan, who were hospitalised at the Tuanku Ja'afar Hospital, have also been discharged."

Dzulkefly said they were previously quarantined at the Higher Education Leadership Academy in Bandar Enstek in Nilai, Negri Sembilan.

At press time, no new cases were reported and the figure remains at 22.

Of the 22, 15 are Chinese nationals, six locals and one American (from the *Westerdam* cruise ship).

Eleven of the 22 patients have been discharged.

Dzulkefly said the total number of patients under investigation stands at 583 cases and the ministry is awaiting test results on 13 cases.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that two Malaysians on board the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship anchored at Yokohama Port in Japan have tested positive for Covid-19 and have been quarantined.

Both are undergoing treatment in the country.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, in an official Facebook post yesterday, said two more Malaysians are still awaiting their test results.

"The quarantined cruise ship *Diamond Princess*, holds the largest cluster of Covid-19 cases outside China, with more than 400 people tested positive.

"Two Malaysians on board have tested positive for Covid-19 while two others are still awaiting the results. Both infected patients are being isolated and looked after in Japan," he said in the post.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NATION

First batch of Wuhan returnees cleared

End of an ordeal: Nadma staff escorting some of the Wuhan returnees out of the Higher Education Leadership Academy campus near Nilai. – Bernama

Efforts under way to bring second group of stranded Malaysians home

PUTRAJAYA: With the first batch of Wuhan returnees now cleared to go home, the focus is now on evacuating a second group of Malaysians and their family members who are still stranded in China's central Hubei province.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the National Anti-Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) was working with the Foreign Ministry to arrange the next evacuation flight.

"This is being managed by Nadma and we will wait for instructions from the Foreign Ministry on the next flight from Wuhan.

"We will make the announcement once this is finalised," he told a press conference here.

Malaysia evacuated 107 Malaysians and their family members from Wuhan, the capital of Hubei and epicentre of the Covid-19 epidemic, on Feb 4 on a special flight arranged by Nadma.

The agency later said 34 Malaysians were not evacuated due to logistical problems and difficulty looking for transport to Wuhan Tianhe International Airport on that day.

Yesterday, Dzulkefly announced that all of the 107 Wuhan returnees were cleared of the virus after being quarantined for 14 days and repeated tests conducted on them proved negative.

They were released starting at 2pm yesterday.

"One individual remains warded for an unrelated health issue," said the minister.

The group had been kept and monitored by health officials at the Higher Education Leadership

Academy campus near Nilai, Negri Sembilan.

This included the Malaysian father and son who tested positive for Covid-19 and had been treated in isolation at Tuanku Jaafar Hospital in Seremban.

"The father and son were given repeated tests and the tests returned negative twice.

"The Health Ministry would like to congratulate all the agencies involved in making this evacuation mission a success," said Dzulkefly.

Meanwhile, with regard to the two Malaysians on board *Diamond Princess* – the cruise ship quarantined off Yokohama – who tested positive for Covid-19, Dzulkefly said they would be looked after by Japanese health officials.

"There were four Malaysians on the cruise ship; two tested positive for Covid-19.

"As the ship docked in Japan, it will be under Japan's jurisdiction and it is standard protocol that they remain quarantined until they have fully recovered from the disease," he added.

Later yesterday, the ministry said the seventh and eighth positive cases of Covid-19 – a married couple from China treated at Permai Hospital in Johor Baru – had fully recovered after two consecutive repeat tests came back negative.

"Both patients were allowed to return home this afternoon. As a result, all Covid-19 positive cases treated at the hospital have fully recovered and have been discharged," it said in a statement.

Following the discharge of the Malaysian father and son as well as the latest two China nationals, 13 confirmed Covid-19 patients have recovered and allowed to go home.

With no new positive cases, the tally remains at 22 cases, with nine patients still under treatment.

Of the 22 cases, 15 are China nationals, six are Malaysians and one a US citizen.

Watch the video **thestartv.com**

Event companies in Penang feeling the strain of Covid-19

By LIEW JIA XIAN
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GEORGE TOWN: The global impact of the Covid-19 outbreak continues to ruin businesses, including those in the event management field, with some companies claiming thousands of ringgit in losses.

The Penang Chinese Girls' School centennial celebration, which more than 10,000 students and alumni from all over the world were supposed to attend, was called off in the wake of the outbreak.

The school's board of directors in a statement said the three-day celebration, which had been scheduled to start on March 6, was postponed indefinitely for the safety of the would-be attendees as Covid-19 had not been contained.

Awesome Creative Events chief executive officer Adrian Yeoh said his company suffered losses of about RM50,000 between February and March.

"We are affected as several annual dinners, corporate launches and grand openings were postponed or cancelled.

"Despite that, we are not reducing salaries or laying off our staff as we expect business to bounce back in April," he said.

Event director Shaun Kam said his company faced RM60,000 in losses this month due to the postponement and cancellation of several team-building programmes.

"My company conducts corporate team-building programmes for participants from Malaysia and abroad and just this month alone, we have had three cancellations.

"We also found out that some other companies, which we had given quotations and proposals, have yet to decide whether to put their events on hold or to cancel.

"As for some of the team-building events we managed to conduct, a number of participants dropped out of the programme or just did not turn up," he said.

Kam added that his company provided participants with hand sanitisers and masks during the events.

Leon Chan, 24, a sales executive who supplies designer furniture to event management companies and shopping malls, said his orders were also affected by the virus outbreak.

"Some promotional events at shopping malls and banks got cancelled, especially after Chinese New Year, so our orders dropped quite badly.

"Many of the unconfirmed orders got cancelled or postponed recently too. There are still some ongoing small events though," he said.

TLM Event managing director Jack Wong said the virus scare had definitely affected businesses in the event organising industry.

"The turnout rate of our outdoor events this month was poor as people opted to stay indoors.

"We will be having a food and baby fair in Penang and Melaka in March and April, but some of our exhibitors decided to pull out as their supplies were insufficient, while some were worried that there would be a poor turnout.

"We had to cancel our food expo in Melaka," he added.

Another event which also fell by the wayside was the inaugural Experience Penang Coastal Run 2020 scheduled for March 15.

Penang tourism development, arts, culture and heritage committee chairman Yeoh Soon Hin said many foreigners had registered for the event, but the state received many requests for it to be postponed.