

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

## Woman at prayer session the index case in latest Sarawak cluster

**KUCHING:** A woman who attended a prayer session at a surau tested positive for Covid-19, and contact tracing found another 13 cases in this cluster in Sarawak.

This was revealed yesterday as the state disaster management committee reported 199 new cases.

The committee said the Melor cluster in Kampung Beladin in the coastal district of Pusa, currently

has 14 confirmed cases.

"Tracing and screening of close contacts of the 23-year-old woman, the index case which was confirmed positive on Feb 24, yielded 13 more positive cases.

"The infection was believed to have spread through social contact and prayers at the village surau," the committee said in a statement, which did not state the date of the

prayer session.

This brings the number of active clusters in the state to 27.

Of the total, six clusters reported new cases on Wednesday.

The committee also said the state's tally of confirmed cases now stood at 11,710.

Of the 199 new cases, Sibul reported the highest with 41, followed by Kapit and Kuching with 33 each,

Miri (22), Song (19), Bintulu and Tatau (eight each), Serian, Bau and Betong (six each), Samarahan (four), Bukit Mabong (three), Mukah and Pusa (two each) while Dalat, Saratok, Sarikei, Sri Aman, Subis and Selangau all reported one case each.

The committee said only 30 or 15% of the new cases showed symptoms.

Meanwhile, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said there were 1,448 new Covid-19 infections and five deaths yesterday.

Selangor has the highest number with 561 new cases or 38.7%.

"Out of the total, 486 cases or 86.3% were from clusters and contact tracing activities," he said in a statement.