

AKHBAR : THE STAR
 MUKA SURAT : 8
 RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19: Current situation (As at 7pm March 18, 2021)		Malaysia																				
		New cases					Total cases					Total deaths					Total recovered					
		Perlis	Kedah	Penang	Perak	Selangor	Kelantan	Terengganu	Pahang	N. Sembilan	Melaka	Johor	Sabah	Sarawak	FT K. Lumpur	FT Putrajaya	FT Labuan					
		0	+38	+104	+39	+353	+20	+15	+14	+23	+8	+142	+73	+303	+79	0	+2					
Asean+		Indonesia	Philippines	Japan	Myanmar	S. Korea	China	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam	Cambodia	Brunei	Laos									
Confirmed cases		1,437,283	640,984	449,713	142,190	97,294	90,072	60,152	27,494	2,567	1,541	203	49									
Deaths		38,915	12,887	8,678	3,203	1,688	4,636	30	89	35	1	3	0									
Recovered		1,266,673	561,530	428,783	131,751	89,178	85,267	60,001	26,377	2,198	898	186	45									
Global Top 10		US	Brazil	India	Russia	UK	France	Italy	Spain	Turkey	Germany											
Confirmed cases		30,294,798	11,700,431	11,474,605	4,428,239	4,274,579	4,146,609	3,281,810	3,206,116	2,930,554	2,610,769											
Deaths		550,649	285,136	159,250	93,824	125,831	91,437	103,432	72,793	29,696	74,677											
Recovered		22,447,275	10,287,057	11,063,025	4,037,036	3,568,271	275,360	2,639,370	2,857,714	2,752,023	2,383,600											

Ismail Sabri: Let's continue to fight Covid-19

By AUSTIN CAMOENS
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KUALA LUMPUR: With exactly a year having passed since the movement control order was implemented in Malaysia, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob is urging all Malaysians to continue fighting against Covid-19.

The Senior Minister said last March 18 marked the beginning of a new normal where everyone was forced to undergo various challenges together.

"I believe each of us has our own experiences and stories to tell, and I am also sure, we dream of a normal life like before.

"With everyone's adherence to the SOP, we will win."

Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob

"Yet, the fact is this virus will continue to be with us for an indefinite period of time, for which we have no answer," he told reporters during his daily briefing yesterday, adding that Malaysians must continue to live under new norms.

"We once managed to hit zero positive cases before it rose again in December last year.

"So it is not impossible that we can succeed again. To succeed, we must stand shoulder to shoulder, working together to ward off this pandemic," he said.

Two months after MCO 2.0 was implemented, and on account of the determination of all parties, the country was seeing some measure of success in containing the pandemic, he said.

If previous daily cases averaged around 4,000 to 5,000, the current trend was a downhill one, with daily cases hovering way below 2,000 cases daily, he said.

"We are confident that the trend will decline further for the next few months, coupled with the implementation of the National Immunisation Programme.

"I would also like to thank all the frontliners who worked tirelessly to take care of our health and safety together," he said, adding that he also thanked those who always adhered to the standard operating procedures to prevent disease transmission.

"God willing, with everyone's adherence to the SOP, we will win.

"This is most important because we no longer want the country to be burdened with sharp increases in cases like a few months ago."

Scammers targeting mask and glove buyers

KUALA LUMPUR: Scam syndicates have changed their tactics to take advantage of high demand for face masks and gloves during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bukit Aman CCID has noticed a trend in bogus glove sales, resulting in losses of more than RM120.79mil.

As at March 14, 98 cases were reported, said Federal CCID director Comm Datuk Zainuddin Yaacob.

"Based on intelligence gathering, we managed to trace several individuals and companies involved in bogus glove sales in Malaysia.

"We launched a series of raids in Negri Sembilan, Johor, Selangor and Kuala Lumpur on March 15 and arrested eight men and two women, including a Mongolian," he said, adding that 12 mobile phones, 14 ATM cards, two cheque books, some documents, three cars and RM6,100 in cash were seized.

"Our investigations revealed the syndicate lured victims by offering gloves at low prices.

"They also duped their victims by using the name of a renowned glove manufacturer in Malaysia to attract the interest of local and overseas buyers," he said.

He added that the syndicate would demand that the buyer make payment in full to the tune of millions of ringgit and would disappear once they receive payment.

"We advise the public not to fall for cheap deals that cannot be verified.

"You can also use the <http://ccid.rmp.gov.my/semakmule/> webpage to check whether any account you are about to make transactions with are listed for links to fraud cases," he said, adding that those with information on similar cases should contact the CCID Scam Response Centre at 03-2610 1559 or 03-2610 1599.

Health DG hails frontliners

Medical, security workers praised for 'extraordinary efforts'

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr
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PUTRAJAYA: A year on since the first movement control order was imposed in the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah pays tribute to Malaysia's frontliners.

The country's top doctor praised Malaysia's health and security frontline workers for their "extraordinary efforts" throughout the health crisis and the MCO, first implemented nationwide on March 18 last year to flatten the curve of Covid-19 infections.

"All frontliners in the health and security sectors play an important role in advising the government and the National Security Council to ensure that the pandemic can be controlled and curbed.

"We do what is right for the country, we do what is right to protect our nation and to prevent more



adverse effects of the pandemic.

"We all have to keep in mind that the health and safety of all should be everyone's responsibility.

"We believe that we could not have done all of these without the full support of the people.

"Let us not forget as well, the sacrifices made by each and every family member of the frontliners," he said in a Facebook post.

Yesterday, Dr Noor Hisham represented all frontliners to receive the "Ibn Khaldun Merit Award" from International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).

Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah

Iskandariah, who is IIUM constitutional head (chancellor), presented the award to Dr Noor Hisham in a brief ceremony at the university's International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation in Kuala Lumpur.

"The conferment of this award marks the relentless struggle of our frontliners in safeguarding the country's well-being and security," said Dr Noor Hisham.

Meanwhile, in his daily Covid-19 update, he said Malaysia recorded 1,213 new cases and three more deaths yesterday.

Selangor remained the state with the highest number of cases, with 352 new cases or 29.1% of Malaysia's total.

Another 1,503 patients were discharged yesterday and as of now, active cases have gone down to 14,782.

Separately, Dr Noor Hisham confirmed that the death of a nurse in Sungai Petani, Kedah, was not

related to the Covid-19 vaccine that she received a week ago.

He said post-mortem results showed that the 45-year-old woman's cause of death was a heart attack.

"It was not due to the vaccine," Dr Noor Hisham said in a text message to *The Star*.

In a WhatsApp message that went viral, it was claimed that the nurse suffered sluggishness and breathing difficulties after her vaccination on March 12 and was found dead at home on March 17.

Dr Noor Hisham assured the Malaysian public that the Covid-19 vaccines were safe.

"After I had my second dose (of Covid-19 vaccine) yesterday, I still could work a full day today," he said yesterday.

As of Wednesday, 367,213 individuals have received the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.