

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : RENCANA

Dasar GEG pelaburan jangka panjang selamat nyawa generasi akan datang

• Ibu bapa, keluarga, pendidik, masyarakat dan penggubal undang-undang perlu berganding bahu hapus semua produk tembakau dan vape demi masa depan negara generasi muda

• Vape atau rokok elektronik kini dilihat elemen gaya hidup perlu diikuti, remaja diperdayakan imej kononnya 'vape lebih selamat' dan 'lebih bergaya' berbanding rokok tradisi



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Siti Idayu adalah ahli Kumpulan Penyelidikan dan Kerjasama Ketagihan Nikotin (NARCC) manakala Nur Amani adalah Timbalan Koordinator NARCC

kan generasi muda hari ini sebagai mangsa.

Data terbaru Kajian Kesihatan dan Morbiditi Kebangsaan (NHMS) 2022: Kajian Kesihatan Remaja menjelaskan jelas ancaman vape terhadap kesihatan awam. Melalui kajian itu, ramai remaja Malaysia kini bereksperimentasi dengan rokok dan vape.

Satu masa dahulu, masyarakat mungkin hanya bimbang mengenai penggunaan rokok konvensional dalam kalangan mereka, namun nampaknya musuh yang satu ini berevolusi.

Vape atau rokok elektronik kini dilihat sebagai elemen gaya hidup baharu perlu diikuti remaja. Ramai dalam kalangan mereka diperdayakan dengan imej kononnya 'vape lebih selamat' dan 'lebih bergaya' berbanding rokok tradisi.

Permainan persepsi ini sememangnya menunjukkan kejayaan dalam memerangkap generasi muda hari ini. Data NHMS

2022 menunjukkan 14.9 peratus remaja mencuba atau menggunakan vape secara kerap, suatu peningkatan mendadak daripada 9.8 peratus pada 2017.

Lebih memerlukatkan ialah kadar kekerapan penggunaan vape apabila dibandingkan dengan rokok. Dalam kalangan remaja lelaki, penggunaan vape adalah dua kali ganda berbanding rokok, manakala remaja perempuan, jumlah ini meningkat sebanyak empat kali ganda.

Walaupun jumlah keseluruhan perokok remaja didapati menurun kepada 6.2 peratus berbanding 13.8 peratus pada 2017, namun ini tidak seharusnya dilihat sebagai sebuah kejayaan.

Nikotin, bahan bahaya terdapat dalam rokok dan hampir kesemua vape, diketahui mengakibatkan ketagihan. Jika sistem saraf dan otak golongan sedang membesar ini terdedah kepada bahan berbahaya ini dari awal, ia akan mengakibatkan ketagihan.

Kajian menunjukkan nikotin adalah penyumbang utama kepada pembukaan laluan untuk remaja mencuba dan kemudiannya menjadi pengguna bahan larangan seperti dadah, seterusnya secara langsung memberi kesan buruk kepada masyarakat.

Selain itu, nikotin juga terbukti menyebabkan penuaan kulit secara pramatang, peningkatan kadar denyut jantung, mengakibatkan tekanan darah tinggi, kanser mulut, esofagus, perut dan paru-paru, meningkatkan risiko masalah gastrik, pankreas, kencing manis dan strok.

Vape, walaupun ada di antaranya tidak mempunyai nikotin, namun tetap berbahaya kerana kehadiran perisa tambahan dan pewarna di dalam cecair digunakan. Kajian menunjukkan terdapat lebih 200 bahan kimia di dalamnya, dan menyebabkan kesan langsung kepada kemerosotan kapasiti paru-paru sehingga mengkekang individu daripada melakukan aktiviti fizikal.

Ini secara langsung akan menyumbang kepada pertambahan berat badan dan memburukkan lagi masalah obesiti. Selain bahaya kepada kesihatan fizikal, rokok dan vape dalam kalangan kanak-kanak dan remaja terbukti mengancam kesihatan mental mereka.

Kajian menunjukkan terdapat peningkatan kes kemurungan yang turut mengakibatkan

kesukaran pembelajaran, prestasi akademik menurun, masalah sosial dan membawa kepada penyalahgunaan dadah.

Maka, jika kita benar-benar ingin melihat mereka bebas dalam arti kata sebenar, maka visi dan strategi dibawa pendukung GEG harus diangkat secara kolektif semua pihak.

Ibu bapa, keluarga, pendidik, masyarakat dan penggubal undang-undang mestilah berganding buah menghapuskan kesemuanya produk tembakau dan vape, demi sebuah pelaburan masa depan negara untuk generasi muda hari ini dan akan datang.

Ramai dalam kalangan golongan dewasa masih tidak tahu ancaman vape sedangkan ia bukan alternatif kepada 'rokok sihat' atau selamat. Persepsi salah ini jika diperturunkan kepada anak-anak kecil dan remaja adalah sangat membimbangkan.

Peranan keluarga, guru

Peranan ibu bapa dan guru sekolah sangat diperlukan bagi membanteras tabiat ini dari awal kerana mereka adalah golongan mudah dipengaruhi rakan sebaya dan kelompok lebih dewasa di sekililing mereka.

Bayi, kanak-kanak dan remaja terdedah kepada asap rokok serta vape sama ada daripada ibu bapa atau ahli keluarga terdekat, dikategorikan sebagai perokok pasif.

Sebenarnya mereka berisiko lebih tinggi untuk menerima jangkitan telinga tengah, jangkitan paru-paru kerap dan berulang, asma tidak terkawal, kesukaran pembelajaran, perkembangan pertumbuhan lemah, gangguan tumpuan, penurunan prestasi di sekolah, prestasi sukan merosot, serta sindrom kematian bayi mendadak (SIDS).

Justeru, menjadi kewajipan ibu bapa membimbing anak-anak dengan menjadi suri teladan positif dan berakhlaq. Jika peranan ini dilaksanakan dengan sempurna, lalu digandingkan dengan perbincangan secara terbuka bersama mereka mengenai bahaya rokok dan vape, pastinya akan menghasilkan perubahan menujus kepada impian mencipta generasi bebas asap rokok dan vape.

Atas faktor ini juga, Rang Undang-Undang (RUU) Kawalan Produk Merokok untuk Kesihatan Awam 2023 perlu dibentang dan diluluskan dengan segera.

Hari ini, remaja negara mempunyai akses yang lebih mudah kepada vape, selepas nikotin dikeluarkan daripada Akta Racun pada 1 April lalu. Walaupun terdapat notis mengatakan produk rokok dan vape hanya boleh dijual kepada individu berusia 18 tahun ke atas, remaja tetap boleh mendapatkannya melalui pelbagai kaedah dan platform, tanpa keperluan pengesahan identiti.

Selain peranan keluarga dan ibu bapa, program kemasyarakatan dan sekolah yang proaktif juga mampu membantu membentuk persepsi betul mengenai bahaya rokok dan vape. Pihak pengurusan sekolah juga perlu bersedia mengambil peranan melangkuai konteks pengajaran dan pembelajaran dalam menghadang kemaraha bahaya ini kepada generasi muda hari ini.

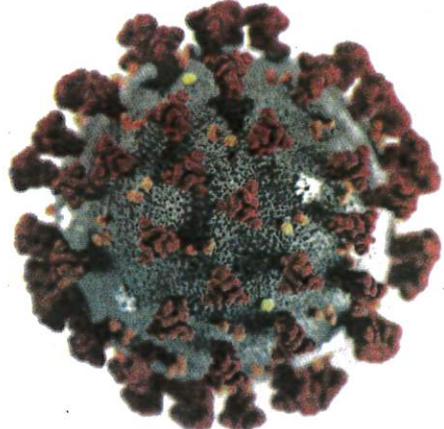


AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Putrajaya

SITUASI TERKINI COVID 19 DI MALAYSIA

Meningkat 28% tapi terkawal



Kes Covid-19 meningkat 28 peratus kepada 2,305 kes pada Minggu Epidemiologi ke-46 (ME 46/2023) iaitu bagi tempoh 12 November hingga 18 November berbanding 1,801 kes dilaporkan pada minggu sebelumnya.

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) berkata, kadar kemasukan pesakit Covid-19 termasuk pesakit yang disyaki Covid-19 ke fasiliti kesihatan menurun kepada 2.0 bagi setiap 100,000 penduduk pada ME 46/2023 berbanding ME 45/2023 iaitu bagi tempoh 5 November hingga 11 November lalu.

KKM berkata, pengisian katil Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) adalah 0.4 peratus manakala peratus pengisian katil bukan kritisik Covid-19 pula sebanyak 0.7 pe-

ratus pada ME 46/2023.

"Sehingga kini, situasi Covid-19 masih terkawal di Malaysia," kata KKM, semalam.

Menurut KKM, sebanyak 21 varian Omicron baharu dilaporkan yang terdiri daripada 20 kes Variant of Concern (VOC) dan satu kes Variant of Interest (VOI)

"Sebanyak 21 varian Omicron baharu dilaporkan yang terdiri daripada 20 kes Variant of Concern (VOC) dan satu kes Variant of Interest (VOI) pada ME 46/2023"

pada ME 46/2023.

Sehingga kini, terdapat

785 kumulatif kes currently circulating VOI iaitu XBB.1.16, XBB.1.5, dan EG.5 dengan 783 kes tempatan dan dua kes import.

"Ia merangkumi 143 kes di Sarawak, 136 kes di Selangor, 119 kes di Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya dan lapan kes di Pahang," kata

pur, 117 kes di Melaka, 59 kes di Johor, 52 kes di Kedah, 37 kes di Pulau Pinang, 24 kes di Terengganu.

"Turut dilaporkan adalah 23 kes di Sabah, 21 kes di Kelantan, 16 kes di Negeri Sembilan, 12 kes di Perlis, masing masing sembilan kes di Perak dan Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya dan lapan kes di Pahang," kata

kenyataan itu.

KKM berkata, sehingga ME 45/2023, hasil aktiviti survei Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) dan Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SA-

R) bagi Covid-19 di lokasi

sentinel seluruh negara mendapati sebanyak 61 sampel ILI dikesan positif Covid-19 dengan kadar po-

sitif 7.0 peratus.

Sebanyak 69 sampel SARI dengan kadar positif 3.0 peratus dikesan pada ME 45/2023.

Malaysia jadi 'juara' diabetes di Asia Tenggara



Seorang penghidap kencing manis berisiko untuk mendapat penyakit jantung, strok, kerosakan saraf, mata dan kegagalan buah pinggang

Dr Zalihah Mustafa

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) memaklumkan 50 peratus daripada penduduk Malaysia menghidap sekurang-kurangnya satu penyakit tidak berjangkit (NCD) seperti tekanan darah tinggi, kencing manis dan kolesterol tinggi.

Menterinya, Dr Zalihah Mustafa berkata, perkara itu diperoleh berdasarkan Tinjauan Kebangsaan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi (NHMS) 2019.

"Prevalensi kencing manis atau diabetes di Malaysia adalah tertinggi di Asia Tenggara di mana negara mencatatkan peningkatan ketara daripada 11.2 peratus pada 2011 kepada 18.3 peratus pada 2019.

"Kencing manis menyebabkan pelbagai komplikasi kepada penghidapnya. Seorang penghidap kencing manis berisiko untuk mendapat penyakit jantung, strok, kerosakan saraf, mata dan kegagalan buah pinggang," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika menjawab soalan Dr Kelvin Yiu Lee Wuen (PH-Bandar Kuching) mengenai berapa jumlah yang dibelanjakan untuk menangani NCD terutama diabetes dan perancangan untuk menangani prevalensi NCD di negara ini.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Zalihah berkata, Laporan Pelan Strategi Mengurangkan Beban Penyakit Buah Pinggang Kronik mendapati 65 peratus pesakit yang me-

nyakit NCD.

Menurutnya, ia diikuti dengan perbelanjaan bagi merawat penyakit kardiovaskular sebanyak RM3.93 bilion (40.73 peratus) dan

RM1.34 bilion (13.89 peratus) bagi merawat penyakit kanser.

"Perbelanjaan ini adalah merangkumi perbelanjaan kemasukan ke hospital, penjagaan primer di klinik kesihatan, rawatan pesakit luar di hospital, pemeriksaan dan ujian kesihatan serta pembelianan perubatan," katanya.

Dr Zalihah berkata, pada 2017, NCD memberi impak negatif kepada ekonomi di negara ini.

"Di mana kos tidak langsung akibat NCD adalah sebanyak RM12.88 bilion dalam bentuk kehilangan produktiviti.

"Diabetes mencatatkan kehilangan produktiviti tertinggi sebanyak RM5.74 billion dan kardiovaskular sebanyak RM5.32 billion," katanya.

Beliau berkata, bagi menangani prevalensi NCD yang tinggi di negara ini, KKM memperkasakan implementasi pelan komprehensif yang dinamakan Pelan Strategik Kebangsaan untuk Penyakit NCD 2016-2025.

Menurutnya, selain itu, advokasi juga dilaksanakan melalui pelbagai medium dan dilakukan secara berterusan di peringkat komuniti.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 18
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Minuman tanpa gula

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KKM dalam fasa akhir adakan sesi libat urus bersama persatuan penjaja

Kuala Lumpur

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dalam fasa akhir mengadakan sesi libat urus bersama persatuan penjaja bagi menyediakan pilihan minuman tanpa gula kepada masyarakat.

Menterinya, Dr Zaliha Mustafa berkata, ia bagi menyokong kempen kurang gula dengan slogan 'satu sudu teh dah cukup, kurang lebih baik, tiada terbaik'.

Beliau berkata, sesi libat urus itu antaranya dilakukan bersama Persatuan Penjaja dan Peniaga Kecil Putrajaya.

"Ini sebenarnya sangat bagus sebab antara kedai yang kita lihat buka sampai malam ialah kedai mamak.

"Apabila melaksanakan ini, insya-Allah boleh membantu kita dalam advokasi untuk mengurangkan penggunaan gula dalam komuniti dan penduduk Malaysia," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian menjawab soalan tama-



DR Zaliha pada sesi Waktu Pertanyaan-Pertanyaan Menteri di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

"Ini sebenarnya sangat bagus sebab antara kedai yang kita lihat buka sampai malam ialah kedai mamak"

han **Dr Kelvin Yee Lee Wuen (PH-Bandar Kuching)** yang bertanya apakah usaha yang akan dilakukan oleh KKM bagi meningkatkan kesedaran awam tentang bahaya pengambilan gula secara ber-

lebihan.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Zaliha juga memaklumkan KKM akan melancarkan Pelan Advokasi Gula dalam masa terdekat, sebagai salah satu inisiatif mengurangkan pengambilan gula

dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia.

Menurutnya, ia sebagai usaha untuk menangani penyakit tidak berjangkit terutama kencing manis.

"Pelan Advokasi Gula ini akan meliputi semua peringkat umur iaitu pra-sekolah, sekolah rendah, institusi pengajian tinggi serta individu dewasa dan warga emas," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Pesakit diabetes di Malaysia tertinggi di Asia Tenggara

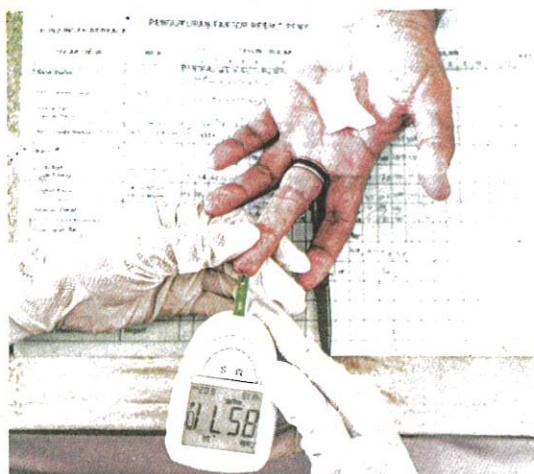
KUALA LUMPUR – Hasil kajian Kebangsaan Kesehatan dan Morbiditi (NHMS) 2019, sebanyak 50 peratus penduduk Malaysia menghidap sekurang-kurangnya satu penyakit tidak berjangkit (NCD) iaitu tekanan darah tinggi, kencing manis dan kolesterol tinggi.

Menteri Kesihatan, Dr. Zaliha Mustafa berkata, melalui dapatan tersebut juga mendapat, prevalensi kencing manis di Malaysia adalah tertinggi di Asia Tenggara yang mana mencatatkan peningkatan ketara daripada 11.2 peratus pada 2011 kepada 18.3 peratus pada 2019.

"Kencing manis menyebabkan pelbagai komplikasi kepada penghidapnya. Seorang penghidap kencing manis berisiko untuk mendapat penyakit jantung, strok, kerosakan saraf, mata dan kegagalan buah pinggang.

"Laporan Registrasi Diabetik Kebangsaan (2020) mendapat 10.6 peratus pesakit diabetes menghidap kerosakan mata, 5.86 peratus menghidap penyakit jantung dan 1.79 peratus menghidap strok.

"Sebanyak 14.38 peratus mengalami gangguan fungsi buah pinggang. Laporan Pelan Strategi



PESAKIT diabetes boleh menyebabkan kerosakan mata, penyakit jantung dan strok. – GAMBAR HIASAN

Mengurangkan Beban Penyakit Buah Pinggang Kronik mendapat 65 peratus daripada pesakit yang memerlukan rawatan dialisis, adalah dalam kalangan pesakit kencing manis," katanya di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian ke-

tika menjawab pertanyaan Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen (PH-Bandar Kuching), yang mahu tahu berapa jumlah dibelanjakan untuk menangani NCD terutamanya diabetes dan perancangan untuk menangani prevalensi NCD yang tinggi di Malaysia.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 13
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

RM9.65 billion tangani NCD

Perbelanjaan bagi rawatan diabetes adalah yang paling tinggi

KUALA LUMPUR

Sejumlah RM9.65 billion telah dilanjutkan bagi menangani penyakit tidak berjangkit (NCD) iaitu 16.8 peratus daripada perbelanjaan kesihatan negara.

Menteri Kesihatan, Dr Zaliha Mustafa berkata, jumlah itu adalah anggaran yang dibuat berdasarkan perbelanjaan pada 2017 dengan laporannya diterbitkan tahun lepas.

Beliau berkata, jumlah perbelanjaan untuk rawatan diabetes sahaja mencapai RM4.38 billion atau 45.38 peratus daripada keseluruhan perbelanjaan dalam rawatan NCD.

"Ini diikuti rawatan penyakit kardiovaskular dengan sejumlah RM3.93 billion atau 40.73 peratus dan RM1.34 billion atau 13.89 peratus bagi rawatan kanser," katanya di Dewan Rakyat pada Khamis.



Dr Zaliha ketika sesi Waktu Pertanyaan-pertanyaan Menteri ketika Sidang Dewan Rakyat di Parlimen pada Khamis.

Dr Zaliha menjawab pertanyaan **Dr Kelvin Yee Lee Wuen (PH-Bandar Kuching)** yang ingin tahu jumlah perbelanjaan untuk menangani NCD terutamanya diabetes dan perancangan menangani prevalensi NCD tinggi di Malaysia.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Zaliha berkata, perbelanjaan bagi rawatan NCD itu merangkumi perbelanjaan kemasukan ke hospital, penjagaan primer di klinik kesihatan, rawatan pesakit luar di hospital, pemeriksaan dan ujian kesihatan serta pembayaran perubatan.

Menurutnya, pada 2017 NCD telah memberi impak negatif kepada ekonomi dengan kos tidak langsung akibat penyakit itu adalah RM12.88 billion dalam bentuk kehilangan produktiviti.

"Diabetes mencatatkan kehilangan produktiviti tertinggi sebanyak RM5.74 billion dan kardiovaskular RM5.32 billion," katanya.

Sebagai langkah intervensi dan usaha advokasi mengenai bahaya penyakit NCD, Dr Zaliha berkata, Kementerian akan melancarkan satu pelan advokasi gula dalam masa terdekat. - Bernama

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

50 peratus rakyat hidap diabetes, darah tinggi atau kolestrol tinggi

RM9.65 billion kos rawat tiga penyakit

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KUALA LUMPUR: Kerajaan membelanjakan RM9.65 bilion atau 16.8 peratus daripada peruntukan untuk Kementerian Kesihatan bagi menangani penyakit kencing manis, darah tinggi dan kolestrol tinggi.

Menteri Kesihatan, Dr. Zaliha Mustafa berkata, anggaran itu berdasarkan perbe-

lanjaan pada 2017 bagi merawat ketiga-tiga penyakit tidak berjangkit (NCD) itu.

Katanya, ini berdasarkan laporan pada 2022 *The Direct Health-Care Cost of Non Communicable Disease in Malaysia* oleh Pertubuhan Kesihatan Dunia (WHO) dan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

Berdasarkan Tinjauan Kebangsaan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi (NHMS) 2019, sebanyak 50 peratus daripada penda-

duk Malaysia menghidap sekurang-kurangnya satu NCD iaitu tekanan darah tinggi, kencing manis dan kolestrol tinggi.

Katanya, ia merangkumi kos kemaskuhan ke hospital, penjagaan di klinik kesihatan, rawatan pesakit luar di hospital, pemeriksaan, ujian kesihatan dan pembiayaan perubatan.

Bersambung di muka 2

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

RM9.65 bilion kos rawat tiga penyakit

Dari muka 1

"NCD telah memberi impak negatif kepada ekonomi menyaksikan kos tidak langsung akibat NCD adalah sebanyak RM12.88 bilion dalam bentuk kehilangan produktiviti. Diabetes mencatatkan kehilangan produktiviti tertinggi sebanyak RM5.74 bilion dan kardiovaskular sebanyak RM5.32 bilion.

"Jumlah perbelanjaan kerajaan bagi penyakit diabetes pula sebanyak RM4.38 bilion (45.38 peratus) daripada keseluruhan perbelanjaan penyakit NCD, diikuti perbelanjaan bagi merawat penyakit kardiovaskular sebanyak RM3.93 bilion (40.73 peratus) dan RM1.34 bilion (13.89 peratus) bagi merawat penyakit kanser.

"Untuk makluman, prevalensi kencing manis atau diabetes di Malaysia adalah tertinggi di Asia Tenggara menyaksikan negara mencatatkan peningkatan ketara daripada 11.2 peratus pada 2011 kepada 18.3 peratus pada 2019," katanya pada sesi pertanyaan-pertanyaan menteri (MQT) di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan Dr. Kelvin Yee Lee Wuen (PH-Bandar Kuching) meminta kerajaan menyatakan jumlah yang dibelanja untuk menangani penyakit tidak berjangkit terutama diabetes dan perancangan untuk menangani prevalensi penyakit yang tinggi di Malaysia.

Mengulas lanjut, kata Dr. Zaiha, Laporan Registri Diabetik Kebangsaan 2020 mendapati, 10.6 peratus pesakit diabetes menghidap kerosakan mata, 5.86 peratus menghidap pen-



DR. ZAIHA Mustafa pada sesi pertanyaan-pertanyaan menteri (MQT) di Dewan Rakyat semalam. - JABATAN PENERANGAN

yakit jantung dan 1.79 peratus menghidap strok.

Selain itu, katanya, sebanyak 14.38 peratus mengalami gangguan fungsi buah pinggang malah Laporan Pelan Strategik Mengurangkan Beban Penyakit Buah Pinggang Kronik mendapat 65 peratus daripada pesakit yang memerlukan rawatan dialisis adalah dalam kalangan pesakit kencing manis.

"Kencing manis menyebabkan pelbagai kompleksi kepada penghidapnya, seorang penghidap kencing manis berisiko mendapat penyakit jantung, strok, kerosakan saraf, mata dan kegagalan buah pinggang," katanya.

Dalam itu, kata Dr. Zaiha, kerajaan mengambil beberapa langkah bagi menangani prevalensi NCD yang tinggi di negara ini antaranya memperkasa implementasi pelan komprehensif dinamakan Pelan Strategik Kebangsaan Untuk Penyakit NCD 2016-2025.

"KKM melaksanakan Program Komuniti Sihat Pembina

Negara (Kospen), aktiviti advokasi, memperkuuh aktiviti saringan kesihatan, promosi dan pendidikan kesihatan di bawah Agenda Nasional Malaysia Sihat (ANMS) dan pengenaan duti eksais terhadap minuman bergula sedia untuk diminum," katanya.

Dr. Zaiha menambah, kerajaan akan melancarkan Pelan Advokasi Gula dalam masa terdekat sebagai usaha meningkatkan kesedaran awam susulan peningkatan kes NCD terutama kencing manis di negara ini.

"Pelan ini meliputi semua peringkat umur dan kita mulakan di peringkat kanak-kanak lagi di pra sekolah, sekolah rendah serta universiti awam (UA) dan swasta.

"Turut dilibatkan ialah pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO), persatuan ibu bapa, ketua kampung, pejabat Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) dan pejabat Parlimen. Jadi, saya mohon semua ahli Parlimen untuk sama-sama jadikan negara kita 'kurang manis,'" katanya.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : NATION

10 Nation

THE STAR, FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2023



Reports by RAHIMY RAHIM, GERARD GIMINO and TEH ATHIRA YUSOF

NCDs a RM10bil healthcare strain

Dr Zaliha reveals huge sum that Malaysia spends on treatments, among others

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia spends huge sums to treat non-communicable diseases (NCDs), with the country spending nearly RM10bil in 2017, says Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

She revealed that RM9.65bil was spent that year for the matter, which takes up 16.8% of the total healthcare expenditure in Malaysia. This figure was based on the government's expenditure in 2017, with the details contained in a 2022 report titled "The Direct Health-Care Cost of Non-Communicable Disease in Malaysia" by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Health Ministry.

As much as RM4.38bil was spent on treating diabetes alone, making up 45.38% of the ministry's total expenditure for treating NCDs, followed by RM3.93bil on treating cardiovascular diseases (40.73%), while another RM1.34bil went to cancer treatment.

"This includes hospital admissions, primary care at healthcare clinics and outpatient treatment at hospitals, alongside healthcare checks and purchasing medicine," she said during Minister question time in Parliament yesterday.

Dr Zaliha said the National Health and Morbidity Survey 2019 found some 50% of Malaysians had at least one NCD.

The prevalence of diabetes in Malaysia was also the highest in South-East Asia, with a stark increase from 11.2% in 2011 to 18.3% in 2019. She said the National Diabetes Registry Report 2020 found that 10.6% of diabetic patients had eyesight issues, 5.86% have cardiovascular disease and 1.79% had a stroke.

"Some 65% of individuals requiring dialysis treatment were also diabetic," Dr Zaliha said, in reference to the strategic plan to reduce chronic kidney disease report.

Dr Zaliha added that a comprehensive action plan was among the measures towards tackling NCDs in Malaysia.

Community empowerment programmes are also carried out to educate the public on leading healthy lifestyles. Advocacy programmes are similarly carried out at all layers of society," she said.

Another measure was increasing the excise duty of sugary drinks to 50sen per litre as announced in Budget 2024.

"Returns from the excise duty will be channelled back to the Health Ministry to treat diabetic patients and support haemodialysis centres," she said.

Dr Zaliha was responding to a question by Dr Kelvin Yiu Lee (PH-Bandar Kuching), who asked about the cost spent in treating NCDs, especially diabetes and the government's plans to tackle its prevalence.

In a supplementary question, Dr Yiu asked about the ministry's efforts in educating the public on excessive sugar consumption.

"We're the sweetest nation in South-East Asia but we shouldn't be proud of that statistic," he said.

To this, Dr Zaliha said the government was set to launch a sugar advocacy plan in the near future as a means to tackle NCDs, especially diabetes. She said the plan covers all age groups, beginning with students from preschools to higher education institutions, adults at the workplace as well as senior citizens.

"It will see participation from NGOs, parent groups and state representative and MP offices," she said.

The ministry, Dr Zaliha said, was in the final phases of engagements with trader associations in offering sugarless drinks to consumers.

"This can help in our advocacy

plans to reduce sugar consumption among Malaysians," she said.

The Health Minister also stressed that the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Bill 2023 would be tabled during the current Parliament sitting that is scheduled to end on Nov 30. She said more than RM6bil was spent on treating smoking-related ailments in 2022.

"God willing, we will resolve this and before this session ends, we will table the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Bill 2023 for its second reading. Pray that we can resolve it quickly and move forward to make our country smoke-free," Dr Zaliha said.

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AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 13
RUANGAN : NATION

Covid-19 cases rising, but under control, says Health Ministry

PUTRAJAYA: Covid-19 cases increased by 28% to 2,305 cases in the 46th epidemiological week (ME46/2023) from Nov 12-18 compared with 1,801 cases reported in the previous week, says the Health Ministry.

It said the rate of Covid-19 admission, including suspected Covid-19 patients, to health facil-

ties dropped to two for every 100,000 of the population in ME46/2023 compared with ME45/2023 (from Nov 5-11).

The utilisation rate of intensive care unit (ICU) beds was at 0.4% while that of non-critical beds was 0.7% in ME 46/2023.

"So far, the Covid-19 situation in Malaysia is under control," it said

yesterday, Bernama reported.

It also said a total of 21 new Omicron variants had been reported, comprising 20 cases of a Variant of Concern (VOC), and one case of a Variant of Interest (VOI) in ME46/2023.

There are a total of 785 cumulative VOI cases circulating, namely XBB.1.16, XBB.1.5 and EG.5, with

783 local and two imported cases. They include 143 cases in Sarawak, Selangor (136 cases), Kuala Lumpur (119), Melaka (117), Johor (59), Kedah (52), Penang (37), Terengganu (24), Sabah (23), Kelantan (21), Negeri Sembilan (16), Perlis (12), Perak and Putrajaya (nine each) and Pahang (eight).

The ministry said that as of ME45/2023, the surveillance at sentinel locations nationwide found 61 influenza-like illness samples to be positive for Covid-19, with a positive percentage rate of 7.0 while 69 severe acute respiratory infection samples to be positive at a percentage rate of 3.0.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 15
RUANGAN : VIEWS

Middle ground to tobacco Bill

IT recently came to light that the Attorney General has reservations about the Generational End Game (GEG) component in the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Bill 2023 (Bill), which is set to be tabled in the current Parliamentary session.

Specifically, the AG's Chambers is of the view that the GEG provision can be challenged in court. Under the initial iteration of the Bill, it was proposed that those born in 2007 and later would be barred from purchasing and using tobacco and tobacco-related products such as cigarettes and vape.

For all intents and purposes, the intention is a noble one. It has been scientifically proven that smoking causes a host of debilitating diseases, including lung cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory ailments, just to cite a few.

Each year, it is said that some 27,000 people die from smoking and related diseases. This becomes a huge burden to the

country in terms of productivity loss and medical bills, on top of the social impact such as when a family loses its sole breadwinner.

Put another way, the GEG component will be very helpful in the long run to mitigate the harmful and lethal consequence of smoking. For this, I must commend Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa and her predecessor for their foresight in pushing forward this idea.

However, since the AG's Chambers is of the view that there could be legal constraints in including the GEG component in the Bill, the Health Ministry should consider decoupling that component from the proposed law – for now.

Based on media reports, the Bill is not just about GEG, although it tends to receive the most media coverage. The Bill also seeks to end the commercial sale of tobacco products, denormalise smoking culture and ban the sale of smoking products, including con-

ventional and ecigarette products, to children.

These are important safeguards to mitigate the negative impact of smoking and vaping.

Another critical aspect of the Bill is the provision to regulate vaping more stringently. Since earlier this year, liquid nicotine has been lifted from the Poisons Act 1952. This basically allows anyone regardless of age to purchase and use products containing liquid nicotine, such as vape.

As we know, vape is a multi-billion ringgit industry and many of our youths are picking up vaping, which may have dire health consequences in the future (it took decades before scientists established a link between smoking and lung cancer).

Vaping needs to be tightly regulated, and those under 18 should no longer be allowed to have unencumbered access to products like vape liquids and heated tobacco, which are potentially harmful to their health. The cur-

rent lacuna with respect to these products needs to be addressed.

This is why I feel the Health Ministry needs to stand firm and table the Bill soonest so that it could further tighten regulations with respect to smoking as well as fill the lacuna with respect to vape products.

As for the GEG component, perhaps it is necessary for the ministry to put it on the backburner until a viable solution is found, such as amending the Federal Constitution.

There is little time for the Health Ministry to lose. It can no longer delay getting this Bill passed in Parliament.

The decoupling of the GEG component from the Bill, for now, is a pragmatic, middle-ground approach that addresses current needs and paves the way for healthier Malaysians in the long run.

RAZIF ABDUL SHUKOR
Subang Jaya

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

Medical scheme benefits 300,000

KUALA LUMPUR: Over 300,000 individuals nationwide have benefited from the Madani Medical Scheme as of November, the Dewan Rakyat was told yesterday.

Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa said it involved 600,000 treatment procedures and health checks at 2,347 private health facilities across the country.

"This scheme is one of the efforts to improve health services for the people. Other initiatives include the extension of operations of 52 government health clinics throughout the country after office hours and making online appointment through the MySejahtera app at 903 health clinics," she said.

Zaliha was replying to Abdul Latiff Abdul Rahman (PN-Kuala Krai) regarding efforts to improve facilities and amenities in health clinics.

She said the ministry was confident that upgrading work of 1,200 dilapidated health facilities will be fully completed by 2025, thus meeting current needs.

"A total of 436 facilities are being upgraded this year and we can add 75 more facilities. Next year, with an additional allocation of RM300 million, we will improve another 400 health facilities." - Bernama

RM9.6b spent on NCD treatments

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of RM9.6 billion was spent to treat non-communicable diseases (NCD), which was 16.8% of the country's health expenditure.

Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa

said the amount was an estimate based on the expenditure in 2017 and the report was published last year.

For overall expenditure under NCD category, she said the total healthcare cost for diabetes was RM4.38 billion or

45.38% of the total spent on NCD treatments.

"This is followed by cardiovascular disease with RM3.93 billion or 40.73%, and cancer with RM1.34 billion (13.89%)," she said.

Zaliha was replying to Dr Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen (PH-Bandar Kuching) in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

She said the costs included hospitalisations, primary care at health clinics, outpatient treatment at

hospitals, medical check-ups and tests as well as medical funding.

Zaliha said in 2017, NCD had a negative impact on the economy, with productivity losses estimated at RM12.88 billion. - Bernama

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

Covid cases up by 28%

Health Ministry records 2,300 infections for Nov 12 to 18 period

BY JOSHUA PURUSHOTMAN
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KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 2,305 Covid-19 cases were reported during the 46th Epidemiology Week (ME46/2023) from Nov 12 to 18, the Health Ministry said yesterday.

Its spokesperson said the number of cases increased by 28% during the period compared with 1,801 cases the previous week from Nov 5 to 11.

"The admission rate of Covid-19 patients at health facilities, including those suspected of being infected, decreased to 2% per 100,000 population in ME46/2023 compared with previously."

"The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed occupancy rate was 0.4%, while the percentage of non-critical Covid-19 bed occupancy was 0.7%. The Covid-19 situation in the country is under control."

The spokesperson also said in ME46/2023, a total of 21 new Omicron variants were reported. They consisted of 20 cases of Variant of Concern (VOC) and one case of Variant of Interest (VOI).

She said to date, there were

currently 785 cumulative cases including circulating VOIs (XBB.1.16, XBB.1.5 and EG.5). Of this, 783 were local cases and two imported ones.

Sarawak recorded 143 Covid-19 cases while Selangor had 136, Federal Territory had 119, Malacca recorded 117, Johor registered 59, Kedah saw 52, Penang had 37, Terengganu recorded 24, Sabah registered 23, Kelantan saw 21, Negeri Sembilan had 16, Perlis recorded 12, Pahang registered eight while Perak and Putrajayahad nine cases each.

The spokesperson said until ME45/2023, the results of nationwide surveillance activities for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (Sari) for Covid-19 found that 61 ILI samples (7%) tested positive.

"There were a total of 69 Sari samples with a positive rate of 3% in ME45/2023.

"Based on data up to Oct 31, only 16,348,414 residents in the country, or 50.1%, received the first booster dose, while just 828,148 (2.5%) received the second booster," she said.

The spokesperson stressed that the risk of hospitalisation and severe symptoms can be reduced by taking the booster.

She said the ministry expects a slight increase in Covid-19 cases following the movement and gathering of relatives and friends during celebrations and group activities.

Hence, the ministry is advising the public to continue practising preventive measures such as frequently washing hands, using sanitisers and wearing face masks, especially when in closed, narrow and crowded places.

"High-risk groups such as the elderly, those with chronic diseases, low immunity and expectant mothers are also encouraged to wear face masks."

The spokesperson also advised practising TRIIS (Test, Report, Isolate, Inform and Seek) when symptoms are present.

"We recommend those who are at high risk or have tested positive for Covid-19 to get the Paxlovid antiviral treatment.

"This will reduce the risk of complications from serious infection."

"Those who have not done so should also obtain a primary and booster dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to reduce the risk of transmission of infection, morbidity and death."