

HIGH POPULATION DENSITY *New Straits Times, 16/11/2020, M/S 8*

KL EXCEEDS SABAH AGAIN IN CASES

460 cases are from Damanlela Construction Site cluster

NURADZIMMAH DAIM
AND ESTHER LANDAU
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE Klang Valley made up more than half of the new Covid-19 cases yesterday, with Kuala Lumpur contributing 469 cases.

This meant that Kuala Lumpur has again eclipsed the total number of daily cases in Sabah, which registered 381 yesterday.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah yesterday said from Kuala Lumpur's total of 469 cases, 460 were from the Damanlela Construction Site cluster.

Dr Noor Hisham had attributed the fast spread of the virus in the Klang Valley to the high population density and mobility in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Putrajaya, which are under the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO).

Most of the new cases in the Klang Valley (661 cases or 54.7 per cent of the nationwide tally) yesterday came from clusters (89.9 per cent or 594 cases), he said.

Dr Noor Hisham said the cumulative number of Covid-19 cases nationwide stood at 47,417, including 12,323 active ones.

Sabah recorded 381 new cases, Selangor (185), Negri Sembilan (48), Penang (42), Labuan (30), Perak (21), Johor (nine), Sarawak (four), Melaka (two), with Kelantan, Putrajaya and Perlis recorded one case each.

Dr Noor Hisham said from the new cases, six were imported, involving foreigners who returned from India (three), Bangladesh (one), Nepal (one) and Indonesia (one).

A total of 104 cases were undergoing treatment in Intensive Care Units, with 42 requiring ventilator support, he said.

Meanwhile, 1,013 patients were discharged yesterday.

"The Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre reported three Covid-19 deaths on Sunday, raising the death toll to 309."

The deaths were recorded in Sabah, with two at Duchess of Kent Hospital and the other at Tawau Hospital.

On Saturday, health experts had urged the authorities to tighten CMCO measures due to the rising number cases in the Klang Valley, which has a population of about eight million people, with an estimated 6.53 million people in Selangor.

Concerns were raised about the CMCO's effectiveness, which saw restrictions on interstate and inter-district travels, but with economic activities allowed to operate as usual.

Dr Noor Hisham announced the discovery of three new clusters: the Plaza and Jalan Kalabakan clusters in Sabah and the Jeri cluster in Johor.

"The Plaza cluster in Kota Kin-



Pertama Complex in Kuala Lumpur is nearly empty yesterday due to the Conditional Movement Control Order. BERNAMA PIC

abalu was detected during a symptomatic individual screening on Nov 11 (Case 42,299).

He said 11 other people were found to be Covid-19 positive during close-contact screenings.

"These people have been admitted to quarantine centres, low-risk Covid-19 treatment centres and the Mara Skills Institute in Kota Kinabalu.

"Up to Nov 15, 19 people have been screened, where 12 tested positive and seven returned negative."

On the Kalabakan cluster, he said it involved Tawau, Sabah. The index case (Case 31,309) tested positive during a symptomatic individual screening on Oct 31.

He said 21 more people tested positive during close-contact screenings.

He said on Saturday, 22 people from this cluster had tested positive and were admitted to Tawau Hospital.

The Jeri cluster involved Kota Tinggi, Mersing and Muar in Johor, with the index case testing

positive after an international border screening in Singapore on Nov 6.

"Close-contact screenings in Malaysia found that 26 other people tested positive. They were admitted to Enche' Besar Hajjah Kalsom Hospital in Kluang.

"A total of 1,170 people have been screened yesterday (Saturday), with 26 people testing positive, 535 negative and 609 awaiting results," he said.

He said the Bah Arnad cluster in Kuching, Sarawak, had ended.