

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NEGARA



FADHLINA (kiri) menyantuni guru dan murid Orang Asli di SK Kuala Betis, Gua Musang semalam.

KPM, KKM siasat kes 75 pelajar keracunan makanan di K. Bharu

GUA MUSANG – Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM) dan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sedang menyiasat kes keracunan makanan melibatkan 75 pelajar selepas mereka menikmati nasi bungkus di sebuah sekolah menengah di Kota Bharu dekat sini, kelmarin.

Menteri Pendidikan, Fadhlina Sidek menegaskan, beliau tidak akan berkompromi terhadap isu kesihatan yang babitkan pelajar.

Katanya, isu keracunan makanan melibatkan pelajar yang

berlaku kelmarin di negeri itu berada dalam pemerhatian dan tindakan lanjut pihak kementerian.

"Isu keracunan ini dalam tindakan dan saya tidak fikir kita akan berkompromi dalam soal yang berkait rapat dengan anak-anak kita.

"Jadi, tindakan sudah kita ambil dengan Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri (JPN) dan KKM untuk menyiasat kejadian ini. Keutamaan kita adalah tentang kesihatan anak-anak murid kita," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian kepada pemberita selepas Majlis Peluncuran Bahan Enhancing Reading Through Digital Text Bawah Program Literasi Untuk Murid Orang Asli Dan Pribumi (LPOAPC) di Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Kuala Betis, di sini semalam.

Media kelmarin melaporkan, kira-kira 20 pelajar perempuan di sebuah sekolah menengah di Kota Bharu menerima rawatan selepas disyaki keracunan makanan.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 18
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Risiko telaga tiub terhadap kesihatan



DR HALIZA ABDUL RAHMAN

PERSPEKTIF

Di Malaysia, telaga tiub atau telaga boring biasanya digunakan di kawasan luar bandar seperti Kelantan dan Pahang untuk mendapatkan sumber bekalan air.

Lebih 50 peratus penduduk Kelantan bergantung pada penggunaan telaga tiub kerana air bawah tanah di negeri itu telah dibangunkan sebagai bekalan air minum sejak 1935 susulan krisis air yang berpunca dari pelbagai aspek.

Susulan itu, masyarakat di sana telah memilih untuk menggunakan alternatif bekalan air bawah tanah berbanding bekalan air yang disalurkan. Penduduk di hilir Lembangan Kelantan misalnya bergantung pada air bawah tanah untuk kegunaan domestik, pertanian dan perindustrian.

Namun, eksploitasi berlebihan boleh menjejaskan keupayaan air bawah tanah secara semula jadi untuk mengecap

semula. Malah, jika dilakukan secara besar-besaran, ia juga boleh menjejaskan paras air dan menyebabkan air cepat kering.

Paling membimbangkan, penggunaan telaga tiub dalam jangka masa panjang boleh mendatangkan risiko kesihatan yang serius kepada pengguna akibat pencemaran semula jadi seperti penceroohan air masin terhadap air bawah tanah atau telaga berhampiran.

Selain itu, sumber air bawah tanah kadangkala berada dalam keadaan yang tidak bersih dan keruh selain terdapat kandungan pepejal terampai.

Bahan pencemar boleh terhasil melalui interaksi air dengan batuan yang terluluhawa, juga daripada air hujan yang boleh melarutkan serta mengalirkan ion unsur logam ke dalam telaga tiub.

Penyerapan logam berat sangat berbahaya kerana ia cenderung terkumpul dan disimpan dalam tubuh manusia. Apabila tubuh manusia mengumpul logam berat, ia berpotensi menyebabkan masalah buah pinggang, kanser kulit dan paru-paru dan masalah neurologi.

Oleh itu, pemantauan kandungan arsenik dalam air bawah tanah misalnya sangat penting kerana boleh membawa

kesan kesihatan seperti arsenikosis sebagaimana yang dialami oleh penduduk di lembangan Bengal dan lembangan Mekong yang menggunakan air bawah tanah dengan kandungan arsenik tinggi.

Logam berat dianggap sebagai ancaman kerana boleh menyusup jauh ke dalam sumber air bawah tanah dan boleh memberi kesan yang memudaratkan kepada semua organisma hidup apatah lagi jika tahap pendedahan melebihi paras standard tertentu.

Kesan buruk eksploitasi berlebihan air bawah tanah boleh berkembang dalam jangka masa yang lama dan impaknya tidak akan dapat dilihat dengan segera. Justeru, status kualiti air bawah tanah perlu diberi perhatian khusus agar sumber tersebut selamat digunakan oleh masyarakat setempat dan pelancong.

Bekalan air bersih sangat penting kerana kebanyakan penyakit bawaan bakteria disebarkan melalui air seperti taun (*vibrio cholerae*), gastroenteritis, demam tifoid, paratifoid, (*salmonella*) dan shigellosis atau disentri basillus (*shigella*).

Bagi memelihara sumber air tanah, Jabatan Alam Sekitar telah menjalankan satu kajian untuk membangunkan satu

Standard Kualiti Air Tanah Kebangsaan bagi kegunaan air minuman yang diadaptasi sepenuhnya daripada nilai kualiti air mentah sebagaimana disyorkan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia.

Ia merupakan standard ambien yang dibangunkan bagi melindungi hidupan akuatik dan kesihatan manusia khususnya air minuman. Standard tersebut merupakan asas peraturan untuk mengawal pencemaran yang memasuki air dari pelbagai punca tetap seperti perbandaran, domestik dan perindustrian serta sumber dari punca tidak tetap seperti air larian daripada aktiviti pertanian serta aktiviti pembangunan tanah dan bandar.

Selain itu, Pewartaan Dasar Sumber Air Negara turut memberi penekanan untuk memelihara sumber air, bagi kedua-dua air permukaan dan air bawah tanah melalui pemuliharaan dan pengurusan sumber air berkesan yang disokong oleh mekanisme perkongsian bersama.

* *Profesor Madya Dr Haliza Abdul Rahman ialah Ketua Laboratori Kesejahteraan dan Kesihatan Sosial Belta Institut Pengajian Sains Sosial (IPSAS), Universiti Putra Malaysia.*

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 19
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Keracunan makanan: KPM akan lakukan siasatan penuh

GUA MUSANG - Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM) akan melakukan siasatan penuh dan terperinci berhubung kejadian lebih 70 pelajar di sebuah sekolah menengah di Kota Bharu mengalami keracunan makanan pada Sabtu lalu.

Menteri Pendidikan, Fadhlina Sidek berkata, kementerian memandang serius dan tidak berkompromi dalam isu membabitkan kesihatan pelajar.

"Tindakan susulan sedang diambil Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri bersama Kementerian Kesihatan untuk menyiasat punca keracunan makanan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas Majlis Peluncuran Bahan Enhancing Reading Through Digital Text di bawah Program Literasi untuk Murid Orang Asli dan Peribumi di Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Kuala Betis pada Selasa.

Terdahulu, Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Kelantan (JKNK), Datuk Dr Zaini Hussin mengesahkan 75 pelajar berusia antara 13 hingga 17 tahun mengalami keracunan makanan dan menerima rawatan.

Bagaimanapun, tiada kes kemasukan wad dilaporkan.

Zaini berkata, kes pertama dikesan pada 20 April dan kes terakhir pada Isnin dipercayai berpunca daripada menu ayam dihidangkan kepada mereka.

Sementara itu, seorang ibu kepada pelajar yang enggan dikenali berharap pihak sekolah lebih teliti menyediakan makanan kepada pelajar untuk mengelakkan kejadian tidak diingini, sekali gus menjejaskan kesihatan pelajar.

"Anak saya baru pulang dari kem diadakan di sekolah berkenaan selama dua hari pada Jumaat dan Sabtu lalu kira-kira 6.30 petang, dia mula menunjukkan tanda keracunan makanan iaitu pening kepala, loya, muntah selain mengalami cirit-birit," katanya.

Menurutnya, menu terakhir dimakan pelajar yang menyertai kem kepimpinan berkenaan ialah nasi putih bersama gulai dan ayam goreng yang didapati sudah berbau.

"Saya berharap pihak sekolah terutama pengusaha kantin lebih peka dalam menyediakan makanan," katanya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 25
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

NEGERI SEMBILAN JOHOR SELANGOR/KL

TELLUS & TULLUS • TIDAK DICENGKAM OLEH TANGAN GHAIB • MATA DAN TELINGA RAKYAT • PEMACU PERUBAHAN

TELLUS & TULLUS
Sinar
Harian

NEGERI 25

RABU 24 APRIL 2024 • SINAR HARIAN

Mangsa dipercayai alami
strok haba selepas jalani
latihan di Port Dickson

Oleh SYAMILAH ZULKIFLI
SEREMBAN

Anggota APM meninggal dunia selepas koma 44 hari

Anggota Angkatan Pertahanan Awam Malaysia (APM) Pulau Pinang meninggal dunia pada Isnin selepas rebah dan disahkan koma sejak 9 Mac lalu ketika menjalani latihan di Port Dickson.

Pengarah APM Negeri Sembilan, Leftenan Kolonel (PA) Mohd Nazri Mes Kam berkata, Allahyarham Muhammad Atiq Ammar, 25, dipercayai terkena strok haba ketika sedang mengikuti latihan sebagai calon pemilihan anggota Pasukan Khas Pertahanan Awam (PASPA).

"Ketika itu dia sedang mengikuti latihan berlari sejauh tujuh kilometer sebelum tiba-tiba rebah.

"Selepas itu arwah terus dimasukkan ke Hospital Port Dickson, namun telah

dipindahkan ke Hospital Tuanku Jaafar baru-baru ini selepas kesihatannya semakin merosot," katanya ketika dihubungi pada Selasa.

Menurutnya, sejak dimasukkan ke hospital, Allahyarham terus tidak sedarkan diri dan disahkan meninggal dunia pada Isnin selepas 44 hari menjalani rawatan.

Ujarnya, jenazah Allahyarham dibawa ke kampung halamannya di Pulau Pinang malam Isnin.

"Saya boleh katakan asalnya kes ini disebabkan strok haba dan ketika pemilihan dibuat keadaan cuaca agak panas.

"Tetapi di peringkat kita memang ada sediakan stesen-stesen air untuk peserta minum sejukkan badan," katanya.



FOTO: IHSAN APM

Jenazah Allahyarham Muhammad Atiq dibawa ke kampung halamannya di Pulau Pinang pada malam Isnin.



AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 9
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Tingkat khidmat 109 klinik kesihatan elak HKL sesak

PETALING JAYA: Kerajaan perlu meningkatkan perkhidmatan sebanyak 109 klinik kesihatan di sekitar Lembah Klang bagi mengelak Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL) terus sesak.

Bekas Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Dr. Lee boon Chye berkata, langkah tersebut mesti dilakukan serentak dengan kerja-kerja naik taraf HKL yang dijadualkan bermula tahun depan.

“Kalau mahu kurangkan kesesakan di HKL, kerajaan juga perlu menambah katil di hospital sekitar Lembah Klang,” katanya ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia* semalam.

Sebelum ini Kementerian Kesihatan menganggarkan kerja naik taraf HKL yang berusia lebih 100 tahun menelan belanja RM200 juta.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, pelan pembangunan semula HKL dibuat dalam tiga peringkat

membabitkan dua komponen bagi memastikan perkhidmatan sedia ada tidak terjejas malah terus dapat disampaikan kepada rakyat semasa kerja menaik taraf dilakukan.

Katanya, pelan ini dibahagikan kepada dua komponen iaitu perancangan pembinaan blok baharu dan menaik taraf blok utama dengan cadangan kerja naik taraf wad di bangunan utama telah disenaraikan dalam permohonan Rolling Plan Kelima (RP5) 2025 dengan anggaran kos sebanyak RM200 juta kepada Kementerian Ekonomi.

Selain itu, beliau berkata, antara kerja-kerja naik taraf yang telah diluluskan di dalam RP4 pada 2024 ialah kerja awalan penyediaan skop projek dan anggaran kos pembangunan bagi cadangan projek blok tambahan wad, Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dan Institut Kaji Saraf Tunku Abdul Rahman (IKTAR).

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 33
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI



FADHLINA Sidek menyantuni murid Orang Asli di Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Betis, Gua Musang, Kelantan semalam. - UTUSAN/AIMUNI TUAN LAH

KPM, KKM siasat kes 75 pelajar keracunan makanan

GUA MUSANG: Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM) dan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) sedang menyiasat kes keracunan makanan melibatkan 75 pelajar selepas makan nasi bungkus di sebuah sekolah menengah di Kota Bharu, kelmarin.

Menteri Pendidikan, Fadhlina Sidek berkata, beliau tidak akan berkompromi terhadap isu kesihatan yang membabitkan pelajar.

Menurutnya, isu keracunan makanan melibatkan pelajar yang berlaku kelmarin di negeri ini berada dalam pemerha-

tian dan tindakan lanjut pihak kementerian.

"Isu keracunan ini dalam tindakan dan saya tidak fikir kita akan berkompromi dalam soal yang berkait rapat dengan anak-anak kita.

"Jadi, tindakan sudah kita ambil dengan Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri (JPN) dan KKM untuk menyiasat kejadian ini. Keutamaan kita adalah tentang kesihatan anak-anak murid kita," katanya kepada pemberita selepas Majlis Peluncuran Bahan *Enhancing Reading Through Digital Text* (ERDT) Bawah Program Litera-

si Untuk Murid Orang Asli Dan Pribumi (LPOAPC) di Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Kuala Betis di sini, semalam.

Kelmarin, media melaporkan, kira-kira 20 pelajar perempuan sebuah sekolah menengah di Kota Bharu menerima rawatan selepas disyaki keracunan makanan.

Pengarah Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Kelantan, Datuk Dr. Zaini Hussin berkata, kes melibatkan pelajar berusia antara 13 hingga 17 tahun selepas mereka dipercayai menikmati nasi bungkus bersama kuah gulai dan ayam goreng.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 15
RUANGAN : LETTERS



Any national road map for medical specialty training must minimise harm and maintain the continuity of the current healthcare and service provisions. FILE PIC ONLY FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES

MEDICAL SPECIALTY

RESOLVING PARALLEL PATHWAY TRAINING ROW

THIS is our message for Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad to ponder, assess and act where he can.

As paediatricians, we urge that the voice of reason and rationality should take precedence over the polarity of positions between the parallel pathway and the master's medical specialty training programmes.

To put it mildly, the haram fatwa by a non-medical, former vice-chancellor of a university is incongruous and unhelpful. The nation's interest is the priority, and it is now at a critical juncture.

Any national road map for medical specialty training must minimise harm and maintain the continuity of the current healthcare and service provisions.

All processes should be transparent and accountable, with proper oversight.

The toxic media exchanges between the proponents of either pathway have shed some historical and contemporary perspectives. However, they are also loaded with their respective bias and innuendos and are equally problematic.

The feuds miss the evolution of several excellent programmes, of which the exponential trajectory has been heading towards a unified and structured training module for our medical postgraduates.

The 12 specialties include: Clinical Oncology, Emergency Medicine, General Surgery, Internal Medicine,

Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Paediatrics, Primary Care Medicine, Psychiatry, Radiology and Rehabilitation Medicine.

The pioneering efforts of our trainers, mentors and scholars in the Health Ministry, Higher Education Ministry, Medical Deans Council, Specialty/Conjoint Boards, Academy of Medicine Malaysia (representing medical professional societies and the private healthcare sector) et al have culminated in the launch of the milestone National Postgraduate Medical Curriculum (NPMC) on Aug 27, 2021, and must not be dismissed.

While some choose to squabble and oppose another training pathway, many of our senior clinicians and educators decided to cast aside their training pathways and professional differences.

They prioritised their obligations to the nation and developed the NPMC.

So, with these historical and present contexts as the bigger picture of our nation's postgraduate medical education journey, we ask that you consider these seven suggestions:

IT would be virtually impossible to halt opposing positions and emotions from the hardliners of both camps. The best way is to fortify the middle ground, as in the "Madani" vision:

THIS impasse does not need to be a zero-sum game, as each training pathway has its strengths and weaknesses;

IT is heartwarming to know there will be a strengthening of the training and recognition of medical specialists

through the amendments of the law to increase the specialist numbers to serve the rakyat;

Our healthcare ecosystem must be led by well-trained specialists who use evidence-based medicine and best practices;

PLEASE consider the input of medical advisers, contributors and reviewers of the 12 specialties in the NPMC, who have demonstrated collectively that it is possible to involve all stakeholders in the postgraduate training to develop a standard curriculum. Actually, more specialties are on their way as well for the NPMC;

AS expressed previously, the 12 specialties in the NPMC have addressed the three stringent issues of a central registry of training centres and entry criteria, a structured curriculum, and exit criteria;

WE hope the Health Ministry will adopt the NPMC protocol as the precursor to our own Malaysian Royal College of Paediatrics/Medicine or the Malaysian Masters of Paediatrics/Medicine, for example, and;

AFTER 67 years of independence, we can finally express our gratitude to our teachers in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.

DR MUSA MOHD NORDIN,
PROFESSOR DR AZIZI OMAR,
PROFESSOR DR ZULKIFLI ISMAIL,
PROFESSOR DR WAN ARIFFIN
ABDULLAH &
DR TAN HUI SUI
Kuala Lumpur

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 11
RUANGAN : NATION

HEALTHCARE made headlines last year when Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim announced a significant allocation of RM41.22bil for the Health Ministry (MOH) in Budget 2024, marking a notable increase of approximately 13.5% from the previous year's allocation of RM36.3bil in Budget 2023.

Malaysia is not alone in this phenomenon, with its neighbouring countries also expecting an increase in healthcare expenditure. Singapore has also projected a rise in total expenditure for 2024 to a total of S\$18.77bil (Singapore Health Ministry), S\$825.84mil higher than the revised FY2023 total expenditure.

Following the aftermath of a global pandemic that witnessed more than 13 billion vaccine doses being administered as of June 2023 (figure taken from World Health Organisation), the importance of health has never been more pronounced.

According to data from the US International Trade Administration in January 2024, personal healthcare expenditures in Malaysia are projected to double to RM13.3bil (US\$2.8bil) by 2028. As individuals become more attuned to their health needs, the demand for comprehensive health insurance coverage is likely to grow, mirroring the increasing financial investment in healthcare services.

This trend is further fuelled by the growing affluent middle-class demographic in Asia. The share of health insurance in Asia has already tripled over the past decade and is anticipated to accelerate twofold over the next decade.

There is significant potential for the health insurance market to play a bigger role in Malaysia and its surrounding region.

Redefining the role of insurers

Amidst medical advancements and stronger demand for healthcare services, the landscape of healthcare is transforming at an accelerated pace, and we must relook at the role of insurance companies in championing sustainable healthcare practices across the value chain. This starts with taking a long view to understand how the healthcare ecosystem will be shaped and key considerations for insurers when tailoring products.

As a leading insurer in the Asia Pacific health landscape, Allianz Asia Pacific's purpose is to provide security for our customers' futures and ease their burdens when major events occur, bringing them peace of mind.

The trust and reputation cultivated worldwide are instrumental in providing the strong foundation that Allianz stands on in the region, operating in nine markets across 14 operating entities to support the demand for health insurance.

Our strength lies in our network, and bringing the power of Allianz together in any market makes us more successful than if we were to operate individually.

While we stand on a solid foundation for health, the responsibility to provide affordable access to quality healthcare is a collective one and requires partnership among all stakeholders. In that spirit, we organised the inaugural Allianz Asia Health Summit in 2024, uniting our global operating entities, insurers,

CHARTING A NEW PATH FOR HEALTHCARE

Health insurance market to play a bigger role in Malaysia, says Allianz Life Malaysia



"Tackling medical inflation through collaboration and effective cost containment" panel discussion featuring (second from left) Allianz Life Insurance Malaysia Berhad chief claims and health solutions officer Tammy Lee, Dr Noor Hisham, Novartis AG Asia Pacific public affairs director Azwar Kamarudin, Lam, and Life Insurance Association of Malaysia chief executive officer Mark O'Dell, with Health Communication Consultant Meera Sivasothy as moderator.



(from left) Allianz Digital Health managing director Birgit König, Anusha, Dr Noor Hisham, Allianz Malaysia Berhad chief executive officer Sean Wang, Allianz Life Insurance Malaysia Berhad chief executive officer Charles Ong, and Lee launching the Allianz Asia Health Summit.

regulators, providers, and distributors to engage in dynamic, in-depth and meaningful discussions on tackling medical inflation, health propositions and the emergence of health tech.

We were honoured to have National Heart Institute Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah as a panellist at the summit and for his support in the launch of our Health Centre of Excellence headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Key takeaways from the summit's panels were on the effective containment of medical inflation, on the latest medical technologies available for early detection of illnesses, ensuring the effective utilisation of data and AI, and how insurers can adapt to emerging medical technologies to bring greater value to customers.

"We have all the right ingredients to propel our health footprint in Asia. Through strategic collaborations and synergies among all players within the healthcare value chain, we can ensure a collective win to make a difference in each life we touch.

From governments to insurers, regulators, providers, and distributors, each voice adds a unique perspective to health

insurance—a safety net against unforeseen health challenges.

Together, we shape a resilient tomorrow, ensuring our customers find comfort in well-rounded protection," said Allianz Asia Pacific regional chief executive officer Anusha Thavarajah.

Collective responsibility

With a growing middle class and the implementation of supportive government policies, more individuals and families are recognising the importance of health insurance as a safeguard against the financial risks of illness and health-related issues.

Although there is a shift in consumer sentiment towards health security, out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure remains high in Asia, north of 30%, which is notably higher than mature markets like Germany, the UK and the US, which is around 10%.

Furthermore, post Covid, countries in Asia are seeing mid to high-teens medical inflation, due to increased cost across the value chain, which may be attributed to current economic and geopolitical challenges.

The medical care cost in Asia

Pacific rose from 7.2% in 2022 to 9.9% in 2023 (WTW Global Medical Trends Survey) and the cost trend is anticipated to remain at 9.9% in 2024.

This, coupled with the strain of an ageing population and the costs associated with rapidly developing new procedures, has caused an overall rise in medical costs impacting everyone, including our customers.

It is the collective responsibility of insurance companies, governments, service providers and the community to address and ensure costs remain stable in the long term while reducing the out-of-pocket expenditure, and to ensure the financial security and future well-being of people.

Responsibility at every step of the healthcare value chain ensures that patients are receiving the right care, hospitals are prescribing more precise treatments for medical conditions and insurance companies can adjust their premiums for individuals appropriately. This drives further advancements in medical healthcare, increases insurance accessibility and improves insurance affordability for everyone.

Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur (PHKL) chief executive officer Erica Lam said, "To ensure accessibility and affordability in healthcare, hospitals in Malaysia are gradually shifting the paradigm from doctor-centric care to patient-centric care as a mid to long-term initiative.

"Creative and innovative ways to lower the cost of medication are approached, but most importantly, medical practitioners will need to focus on preventative medicine to keep rising medical inflation in check."

Transforming healthcare with a Centre of Excellence

Despite growing interest in healthcare, insurance penetration in Malaysia as of 2020 remains relatively low at only 54%, below the global average of 68%.

To increase insurance penetration, we are developing better plans and value propositions in healthcare, while advocating for the 3Es – Early Detection, Early Intervention, and Early Treatment for our customers.

We recognise the significant role insurers play as we engage with our customers at various stages of their health journey, catering to their diverse needs, with the goal of providing support to those who rely on us.

This starts from comprehensive health services, suitable products, access to networks and effective claims management, supported by health analytics and human capital.

By adopting a collaborative mindset, we ensure that we do right by our customers through sustainable solutions that are tailored, accessible, and future oriented.

Allianz Asia Pacific recently launched a Regional Health Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Malaysia, dedicated to implementing the best of health from within Malaysia to our entities across the region.

The CoE will leverage the best-in-class assets created regionally to provide tailored products and experiences for customers.

Our commitment to enhancing healthcare accessibility in Malaysia reflects a broader effort to address evolving healthcare needs, foster innovation, and forge collaborative partnerships across the industry as we usher in an era of sustainable healthcare.

As an insurer, we have a responsibility towards our customers, to ensure continued access to healthcare.

Anusha continued, "The reality is that we are all customers in navigating the healthcare ecosystem. Each one of our customers' journeys echoes in us and that is why Allianz places them at the heart of our strategy, not just in Asia, but globally."

Article by Allianz Life Malaysia

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 14
RUANGAN : NATION

75 schoolkids down with food poisoning

KOTA BARU: Seventy-five students from a secondary school in Kota Baru have received treatment for food poisoning believed to be linked to a chicken dish served to them last Saturday.

Confirming the incident, Kelantan Health Department director Datuk Dr Zaini Hussin said the students who were affected were between 13 and 17 years old.

He said the initial case was reported on April 20, and another on April 22, Bernama reported.

"Seventy students experienced mild symptoms, while five received outpatient treatment and were allowed to return home," he said during the 2024 Madani Ulama and Umara Assembly in Pengkalan Chepa yesterday.

On Monday, the media reported that around 20 female students from a secondary school in Kota Baru sought medical treatment following suspected food poisoning.

AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

Sue influencers who promote harmful cosmetics, public told

■ BY SIVANISVARRY MORHAN
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Consumers who suffer allergic reactions to cosmetics and other products with banned ingredients promoted by social media influencers have been told to sue them.

Lawyer Kokila Vaani Vadiveloo said influencers profit from the products they promote and should be held accountable for their actions.

"Influencers can be charged with unfair trade practices, false or misleading representation and other forms of consumer exploitation under the Consumer Protection Act 1999.

"They cannot feign ignorance and are responsible for ensuring their content does not violate the provisions (of law), especially when promoting products and services."

Kokila Vaani said products containing "drugs and harmful chemicals", ought to undergo rigorous testing and scrutiny to ensure they meet local standards.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia public health medicine specialist Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh also warned consumers not to buy products with unknown ingredients.

"While buying beauty products promoted by influencers might seem like a good idea, foundations, lip mattes and concealers are being sold without sufficient information.

"Consumers must know the product brand, its name and the location of the manufacturer, packer or distributor. Many products sold online do not have this information"

Regulation 18A (1) of the Control of Drugs and Cosmetic Regulations 1984 states it is illegal to manufacture, sell, supply, import or possess any cosmetics without prior notification to the director of Pharmaceutical Services.

"No matter how affordable they may be, it is crucial to exercise caution and consider various factors before purchasing cosmetics promoted online or by influencers.

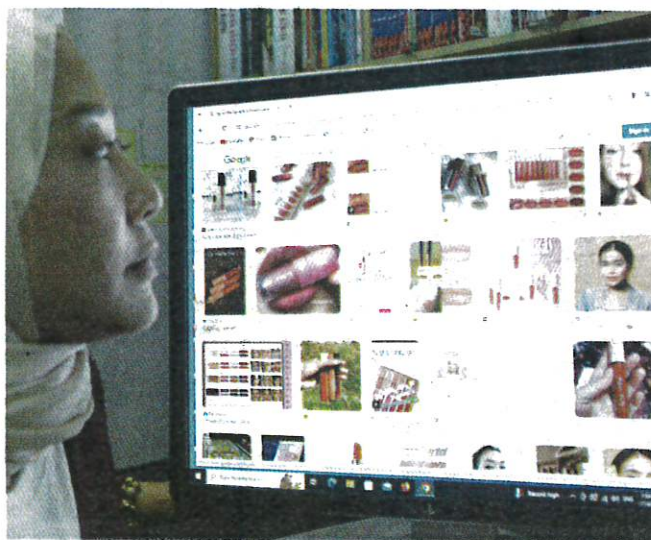
"This is because its low cost could indicate compromised quality, potential safety hazards or unethical manufacturing practices."

Sharifa Ezat said harmful chemicals such as parabens, phthalates, formaldehyde, lead, mercury, coal tar dyes, triclosan, toluene, polyethylene glycol and synthetic fragrances are usually found in such products.

"They can cause hormonal disruption, affect reproductive issues and cause cancer, skin irritation, allergic reactions and neurological damage.

"Due to lax regulation and inadequate labelling, consumers often struggle to

➤ Individuals marketing such products liable to action under Consumer Protection Act, says lawyer



The Control of Drugs and Cosmetic Regulations states it is illegal to sell, supply or import cosmetics without prior notification to the director of Pharmaceutical Services. – MASRY CHE ANI/THE SUN

identify these chemicals in their cosmetics and herein lies one of the biggest problems."

Sharifa said consumers experiencing skin issues due to chemical reactions from cosmetics should immediately seek help from dermatologists.

Khairunnisa Zul Arif, 27, said she purchased a set of three lip mattes priced at RM 4.99 five months ago.

"I was drawn to purchase the product after seeing the vibrant colours shown in the influencer's video.

"But when I received the products, the packaging was basic and poorly designed. There was also no mention of the ingredients, expiration date or brand name.

"I was complimented by colleagues upon using it. But less than a week later, I experienced skin irritation, allergic reactions and severe lip swelling."

Khairunnisa said she suspects the product contained chemicals that triggered her allergic reactions, requiring her to seek medical attention.

"It took almost four months to recover and it was a painful lesson. Now, I am very cautious when purchasing beauty products at discounted prices."

Sharifa said even products bearing the notification to the director of Pharmaceutical Services can be banned if found to contain harmful substances.

"Influencers frequently switch products to promote and probably use it only once when making their videos.

"But consumers purchase products for frequent use and if there are problems, the influencer may disclaim responsibility and leave it to consumers to deal with the repercussions."

Sharifa stressed that regulatory bodies should implement stricter guidelines and oversight to ensure the safety and integrity of beauty products.

"Until such regulations are put in place, consumers should be cautious when purchasing cosmetics, especially those that do not provide sufficient information."