

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
MUKA SURAT : 31  
RUANGAN : FORUM

## Wajibkan semula pelitup muka, penjarakan fizikal

**SAUDARA PENGARANG,**

**LANGKAH** proaktif perlu diambil bagi membendung penularan virus Covid-19 serta sebarang jenis varian baharu yang muncul daripada virus terbabit. Ini susulan peningkatan jangkitan virus Covid-19 semenjak kebelakangan ini dalam negara kita dan di beberapa buah negara serata dunia.

Kita perlu mengambil langkah awal bagi membendung penularan virus Covid-19 serta sebarang varian baharu yang hadir bersama dengannya bagi melindungi tahap kesihatan dan keselamatan orang ramai.

Antara langkah utama yang perlu diambil ialah dengan mewajibkan semula pemakaian pelitup muka untuk semua pihak. Pemakaian pelitup muka ini bukanlah satu usaha yang asing kerana kita telahpun biasa menggunakan pelitup muka semenjak penularan virus Covid-19 pada awal tahun 2020 lalu.

Tidak dapat dinafikan, pemakaian pelitup muka adalah salah satu cara untuk membendung penularan virus Covid-19. Pemakaian pelitup muka juga bukan tanda seseorang itu lemah, penakut atau tiada keyakinan terhadap diri sendiri. Pemakaian pelitup muka menunjukkan seseorang itu adalah seorang yang bijak dan berani untuk mengambil langkah bagi melindungi diri dan orang lain daripada dijangkiti sebarang jenis penyakit berbahaya.

Pemakaian pelitup muka merupakan satu langkah yang paling mudah untuk dilakukan oleh semua pihak termasuk oleh golongan kanak-kanak. Oleh yang demikian, tiada sebab atau alasan bagi menafikan penggunaan pelitup muka dalam kehidupan seharian semua pihak.

Mencegah lebih baik daripada merawat. Oleh itu, pemakaian pelitup muka ini perlu dilakukan semula dalam negara kita. Pihak Kementerian Kesihatan perlu mempromosikan usaha pemakaian pelitup muka serta pada masa sama melakukan proses pemantauan dengan serius dan konsisten serta mengambil tindakan yang tegas melalui peruntukan undang-undang sedia ada dalam negara terhadap mana-mana peniaga yang menaikkan harga tidak munasabah terhadap pelitup muka yang dijual seperti yang telah termaktub di bawah Akta Kawalan Harga dan Antipencatutan 2011 (Akta 723).

**PROFESOR MADYA  
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**PEMAKAIAN** pelitup muka dapat membendung penularan virus Covid-19 serta sebarang varian baharu bagi melindungi tahap kesihatan dan keselamatan diri dan orang ramai. - UTUSAN/ISKANDAR ISHAK

AKHBAR : THE STAR  
 MUKA SURAT : 17  
 RUANGAN : VIEWS

# Covid vaccines saved lives

A COHORT of self-proclaimed experts together with the Muslim Consumers Association of Malaysia (PPIM) are on a campaign to misinform the public again about the safety and efficacy of mRNA vaccines.

I debunked their pseudoscience in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic via an online news portal, and they have not offered any rebuttal or counter-arguments since.

In their latest campaign, they are demanding an immediate withdrawal of mRNA vaccines, claiming growing reports of adverse effects from consumers and medical professionals alike.

As is usual for the anti-vaccine lobby, their self-proclaimed experts speak in broad generic terms with no evidence-based science. One alleged that "Everywhere we see people dying, most of them are suffering, they cannot work."

This fear-mongering strategy

of theirs, devoid of any facts or figures, creates panic among the gullible and ill-informed public.

It also presents an opportunity for them to market their herbs, tonics, worm medicines, mega vitamins and Peter McCullough's (their foreign expert) newly-developed detoxification supplement called natokinase to detoxify the spike proteins.

Experts have rubbishised this mRNA vaccine detoxification supplement (<http://tinyurl.com/5nh7xp93>), and none of these alternative remedies have undergone double-blind randomised control trials, the benchmark of evidence-based medicine, to verify their efficacy and safety.

Another darling of the anti-vaccine campaign, Pierre Kory, had at least two of his scientific papers on the worm medicine, ivermectin, retracted due to poor statistics or just faking

the numbers (<http://tinyurl.com/mr33ezf3>).

Within eight months, the Covid-19 vaccination campaign in 141 countries prevented 2.4 million excess deaths by August 2021.

If the vaccines had been equitably distributed, another 670,000 more lives could have been saved.

The deaths averted had an economic value of US\$6.5 trillion, about 9% of the combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the 141 countries concerned.

A one-year study (published in *The Lancet*) between Dec 8, 2020 and Dec 8, 2021 estimated that Covid-19 vaccines prevented 14.4 million deaths in 185 countries (<http://tinyurl.com/5fzvzku8>).

If the World Health Organisation (WHO) target of 40% eligible population fully dosed was met, another 599,300 deaths could have been averted.

In the COVAX Advance Market Commitment countries, an estimated 7.4 million deaths were averted. If the 20% vaccination coverage target set by COVAX had been met by the low-income countries, another 81,750 deaths could have been prevented.

In the Malaysian context, the former director of the Institute for Clinical Research, Datuk Dr Kalaiarasu Peariasamy, said Covid-19 vaccines prevented between 16,000 and 17,000 deaths, as reported by the local press in June 2022.

The vaccine deaths alleged by PPIM and "experts" are more likely due to Covid-19 (deaths being higher among the unvaccinated), of which the world and Malaysia has unfortunately clocked seven million and 37,000 deaths, respectively.

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AKHBAR : STAR METRO  
 MUKA SURAT : 8  
 RUANGAN : EVENTS



Reezal (middle, wearing cap) with Dr Norhashimawati on his right, filling up one of the water tanks after presenting them to the Kepala Batas Hospital and north Seberang Prai district health office. — Buletin Mutiara

## Water tanks for health facilities to ensure no disruption in services

THE Kepala Batas Hospital and the north Seberang Prai district health office have received eight poly water tanks from the Bertam service centre and Kepala Batas Unity secretariat.

Each poly water tank can store 2,000 litres of water.

According to the official Facebook page of the Bertam service centre, four of these tanks were allocated for the water storage needs of Kepala Batas Hospital.

The remaining tanks were distributed to Klinik Kesihatan Kepala Batas, Klinik Desa Permatang Sintok and Klinik Desa

Pajak Song by the north Seberang Prai district health office.

According to Buletin Mutiara, Bertam assemblyman Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican handed over the tanks to Kepala Batas Hospital director Dr Norhashimawati Abdul Mutalib and north Seberang Prai district health office's Dr Izani Uzair Zubair recently.

Reezal expressed hope that the joint effort would ensure that the health services would not be interrupted during the scheduled water disruption from Jan 10 to 14.