

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Doktor dakwa kena buli, dicaci

Kemahiran diperlekeh depan pesakit, diancam senjata tajam jika tak patuh arahan ketua unit

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Kuala Lumpur: Beberapa doktor yang menjadi mangsa buli di sebuah hospital awam di Sabah, tampil berkongsi pengalaman masing-masing dibuli secara verbal dan fizikal, apabila dihambur kata-kata kesat, lucah serta penghinaan kaum, selain pernah diancam senjata tajam jika tidak mematuhi arahan ketua unit.

Malah, mereka sering dimulakan di hadapan pesakit apabila kemahiran profesional mereka diperlekeh secara terbuka oleh doktor pakar.

Pembuli pula bagaimana mempunyai kekebalan apabila tiada tindakan tegas diambil ke atas mereka, selepas aduan kepada pihak atasan, bahkan ketua jabatan memberi amaran akan menukar doktor yang mengadu dibuli ke unit lain.

Doktor yang hanya mahu dikenali sebagai Dr Alina, mendakwa antara bentuk buli dialami adalah ancaman akan ditikam jika tidak mengikut arahan ketua unit di bilik bedah sedangkan arahan itu tidak dapat dituruti kerana menyalahi etika serta garis panduan pembedahan hingga

boleh memudaratkan pesakit.

"Ketika berkhidmat di bawah ketua unit itu, saya perasan ada yang tidak kena dengan aspek pengurusan dibuat terhadap pesakit. Apabila menyuarakannya, beliau mengugut akan membuang saya daripada unit. Sejak itu, saya berdepan pelbagai kejadian buli. "Saya dihambur dengan kata-kata tidak senonoh antaranya pelacur, anjing, lalat selain ancaman fizikal olehnya," katanya.

Dr Alina berkata, beliau pernah membawa isu itu kepada pihak atasan hospital berkali-kali, namun tidak ada perubahan dalam unit terbahit.

Sementara itu Dr Vic pula berkata, beliau pernah melihat ketua unit itu menggunakan kata-kata kesat terhadap rakan sekerjanya, membuli dan mengarahkan mereka membuat rawatan dan melakukan pembedahan yang tidak mengikut prosedur operasi standard (SOP).

"Prosedur pembedahan yang

Eksklusif

kami diarahkan itu bukan mengikut rawatan standard dan sesiapa yang tidak menurut perintah ketua unit akan digugut dengan dibuang dari unit.

"Ketua unit berkali-kali mengugut sesiapa yang tidak menurut keputusan untuk rawatan pesakit tanpa soal-jawab akan dibuang daripada bekerja di bidang terbahit di Sabah," katanya.

Beliau berkata, satu kejadian membabitkan pembedahan kanser di kepala dan pemindahan tisu untuk menutupi otak.

Katanya, ketua unit membuat keputusan membuat pencucian luka (dressing) pada otak yang terdedah selama beberapa minggu. "Apabila tidak setuju kerana tidak

mahu memberi mudarat kepada pesakit, Dr Alina dimaki di hadapan kakitangan lain dan Dr Alina akhirnya dikeluarkan dari unit itu.

"Doktor junior dan jururawat terpaksa mengikut arahan mencuci luka ke atas otak pesakit hari-hari semasa pesakit me-raung meminta tolong. Tidak sesiapa berani menyoal moral perubatan itu," katanya.

Terpaksa tinggalkan kerjaya

Dr Jenny pula terpaksa meninggalkan kerjaya dalam perkhidmatan awam selepas tidak tahan dibuli sepanjang empat tahun berkhidmat di sebuah hospital kerajaan di Sabah.

Beliau yang ditemui *BH* mengakui alasan mengorbankan kerjaya dalam kerajaan disebabkan tidak sanggup berdepan dengan pembulian yang didakwa dilakukan oleh doktor pakar.

Beliau mendakwa, sepanjang berkhidmat di situ, terdapat 11 pegawai perubahan yang berhenti kerana tidak sanggup diperlakukan seolah-olah tiada harga diri.

"Sebelum doktor pakar itu bertugas pada Julai 2018, suasana di tempat kerja sangat harmoni. Namun, suasana bertukar sangat toksik selepas beliau bermula berkhidmat di unit berkenaan.

"Saya mangsa buli yang dihina di depan pesakit kerana saya dikatakan tidak pandai menguruskan mereka. Saya diberitahu akan diusir daripada unit kerana kemahiran dalam pembedahan saya sangat teruk.

"Saya bersama beberapa pegawai perubahan yang lain membuat surat aduan kepada pihak hospital mengenai sikap doktor pakar berkenaan.

"Pihak hospital kemudiannya memberi maklum balas dengan memaklumkan sudah mengadakan perjumpaan dengan ketua unit itu serta meminta beliau supaya bersikap lebih profesional dan berhemah semasa menjalankan tugas sebagai pakar perubatan," katanya.

Berkongsi kisah sama, pakar perubahan yang hanya mahu dikenali sebagai Dr John bersyukur kerana selepas beberapa tahun berdepan budaya kerja yang tidak kondusif, akhirnya beliau meneruskan tugas walaupun bukan dengan hospital kerajaan.

Beliau berkata, sepanjang berkhidmat di hospital itu, tidak mungkin dapat dilupakannya apabila mendengar sentimen bangsa menjadi bahan untuk memperlekeh seseorang.

"Saya pernah mendengar rakan sekerja dicera dengan kata-kata yang menyakitkan. Dia yang berbangsa Melayu, dibandingkan dengan kebolehan bangsa lain. Hak-hak Melayu dipersoal.

"Satu kerugian buat KKM jika rakan tenaga pakar muda 'cabut' hanya kerana seorang ketua yang tidak melaksanakan tanggungjawab dengan baik," katanya.

Sementara itu, seorang lagi pegawai perubahan yang hanya mahu dikenali sebagai Dr Syah, berkata beliau mendakwa rakan sekerjanya menerima gangguan seksual secara lisan apabila kata-kata lucah diucapkan kepada mereka.

"Beliau berulang kali menjerit kepada rakan sekerja saya dan saya, serta menimbulkan ketakutan dan kebimbangan sehingga menyebabkan tekanan mental dan emosi," katanya.

KKM beri jaminan akan siasat

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) memberi jaminan akan menyiasat amalan buli atau gangguan bentuk lain dalam perkhidmatannya, termasuk di hospital awam seperti dibangkitkan Persatuan Perubatan Malaysia (MMA).

Pejabat Menteri Kesihatan dalam kenyataannya, berkata KKM sentiasa mengambil serius sebarang amalan yang mengganggu-gugat integriti dan reputasi perkhidmatan kesihatan serta perkhidmatan awam.

"Ini termasuklah amalan buli atau gangguan bentuk lain, iaitu sebarang kes berkenaan akan disiasat mengikut prosedur.

"Menteri Kesihatan (Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad) pernah mengambil tindakan tegas susulan laporan amang seksual sehingga membawa kepada penamatan perkhidmatan seorang ketua jabatan hospital kerajaan pada tahun 2018," katanya.

MMA gesa tubuh jawatankuasa bebas laksana audit luar

Kuala Lumpur: Persatuan Perubatan Malaysia (MMA) menggesa Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menubuhkan sebuah jawatankuasa bebas bagi melaksana audit luar terhadap dakwaan buli dan pelaksanaan prosedur tidak normal kepada pesakit, membabitkan seorang ketua unit dalam sebuah hospital kerajaan di Sabah.

Presiden MMA, Dr Azizan Abdul Aziz, menegaskan satu tindakan tuntas perlu diambil oleh Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, bagi mengelak budaya toksik itu berterusan kerana itu bukan saja memberi kesan kepada kakitangan hospital, malah juga kepada pesakit.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, aduan berkaitan buli yang berlaku itu pernah disalurkan kepada pengurusan hospital berkenaan dan MMA mempunyai bukti surat dan tindakan diambil terhadap ketua jabatan terbahit, tetapi tindakan secara teguran dibuat pihak ber-

kenaan tidak mengubah apa-apa, sebaliknya perbuatan buli membabitkan individu sama berterusan hingga kini.

Katanya, MMA kini menegaskan kepentingan pelaksanaan audit luar secara bebas selepas aduan yang dibuat kepada Unit Integriti KKM sebelum ini tidak memberi sebarang hasil.

"Kami percaya aduan yang diterima terhadap ketua unit sebuah hospital kerajaan di Sabah ini berasas, berikutan ia dibuat lima pengadu termasuk pakar bedah dan pegawai perubahan.

"Selain itu, kami turut menerima bukti berhubung perbuatan buli terhadap doktor di hospital itu, termasuk ketika dalam de-wan bedah dan prosedur pembedahan menyalahi etika.

"Ia menjejaskan perkhidmatan sektor perubatan di negara ini, sekaligus memberi imej tidak baik buat hospital awam," katanya kepada *BH* semalam.

Dr Azizan berkata, pihaknya tidak berpuas hati dengan tindakan diambil pengurusan hospital terbahit yang hanya membuat teguran terhadap ketua unit berkenaan sejak 2018.

Beliau berkata, selepas aduan dipanjangkan kepada Unit Integriti KKM serta cadangan MMA supaya siasatan secara bebas luaran dibuat, namun cadangan itu tidak diterima.

"Mereka memberikan alasan ia boleh memberikan gambaran campur tangan pihak luar serta ketidakpercayaan pegawai yang dilantik sebagai jawatankuasa siasatan.

"Namun, ternyata tindakan yang diambil secara teguran yang dibuat itu tidak menambah baik persekitaran suasana peker-

jaan di hospital terbahit, sebaliknya insiden buli itu terus berlaku, termasuk yang terbaharu pada bulan lalu," katanya.

Dr Azizan berkata, berdasarkan maklum balas diterima MMA, pihaknya mendapati prosedur siasatan secara dalaman yang dilaksanakan pengurusan hospital terbahit juga tidak menyeluruh.

"MMA berharap kejadian 'Hospital Sungai Buloh' tidak akan berulang lagi. Kita tidak mahu aduan tanggapan aduan yang dibuat terhadap ketua jabatan ataupun mereka yang berada di dalam hierarki tinggi tidak akan mengubah apa-apa.

"Ini terbukti apabila Unit Integriti KKM memaklumkan me-reka sudah memberi teguran

membina kepada pihak terbahit dalam kes buli ini, namun insiden itu masih berterusan dalam unit berkenaan," katanya.

Lantaran itu, beliau mengingatkan KKM agar memandang serius perkara terbahit bagi memastikan persekitaran kerja yang selamat dan berharap isu seperti yang berlaku di Hospital Sungai Buloh tidak akan berulang lagi.

Beliau menegaskan, MMA juga menerima bukti bergambar berhubung prosedur pembedahan yang dilakukan ketua unit berkenaan yang disifatkan sebagai menyalahi etika.

"Apabila kami merujuk kepada pihak bedah neuro mengenai prosedur melakukan 'dressing' terhadap otak pesakit yang dilakukan secara terbuka tanpa tempurung, ia mengejutkan mereka kerana kaedah itu tidak diamalkan di mana-mana negara," katanya.



Dr Azizan Abdul Aziz

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 18
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

18

Nasional

3 doktor ditahan kes pemalsuan tuntutan PERKESO

SPRM jalankan siasatan lanjut, suspek mungkin ditahan reman

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Kuala Lumpur: Tiga doktor kanan di dua hospital Pulau Pinang ditahan Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM), susulan siasatan pemalsuan tuntutan hilang upaya Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (PERKESO).

Difahamkan, dua daripada doktor itu ditahan di Hospital Seberang Jaya, manakala se-

rang lagi di Hospital Bukit Mertajam.

Ketua Pesuruhjaya SPRM, Tan Sri Azam Baki mengesahkan penahanan tiga doktor itu semalam.

Beliau berkata, siasatan lanjut akan dijalankan SPRM mereka mungkin akan ditahan reman.

"Ia (ditahan reman) bergantung kepada penemuan pegawai siasatan," katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Julai lalu, Ahli Dewan Negara, Dr RA Lingeshwaran menggesa Kementerian Sumber Manusia menjelaskan dakwaan beberapa doktor yang mengendalikan tuntutan hilang upaya PERKESO digantung, dikaitkan dengan kartel memalsukan permohonan sedemikian.

Beliau memaklumkan Dewan

Negara, mereka digantung sehingga diberitahu kelak selepas PERKESO mendapat tahu mengenai kegiatan itu di sebuah hospital di Pulau Pinang.

Kartel sedang lobi

Lingeshwaran yang juga bekas Pengarah Hospital Sungai Bakap di Pulau Pinang berkata, beliau difahamkan kartel sedang melobi supaya doktor yang digantung itu kembali bertugas di hospital sama.

Beliau turut mengingatkan dewan terdapat 683 pengeluaran palsu dari 2018 hingga 2022 membabitkan kira-kira RM43 juta, iaitu 16 membabitkan seorang doktor tertentu yang perkhidmatannya ditamatkan selepas terbongkar.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

AMONG 32 LINKED TO CARTEL

3 doctors held over alleged Perkeso claims fraud

GEORGE TOWN: Three senior doctors were among 32 individuals arrested in the state in a major swoop by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over alleged links to a cartel involved in falsifying Social Security Organisation (Perkeso) disability claims.

MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki, who confirmed the arrests, said two doctors were picked up at government hospitals while another was arrested at a private hospital.

Azam said others detained included 19 Perkeso contributors, eight agents and two runners.

The contributors included those working in factories and with a port.

"Some of them, including the

doctors, will be remanded tomorrow (today), while the others have been released after having their statements recorded.

"We expect to make more arrests as investigations into the case progresses," he said.

On the possibility of the doctors being remanded, Azam said he would leave it to the investigation officers and it would depend on the findings of the probe.

It is learnt that two of the doctors were arrested at Seberang Jaya Hospital and Bukit Mertajam Hospital on Tuesday morning.

In July, Senator Dr Lingeshwaran R. Arunasalam urged the Human Resources Ministry to address allegations that doctors involved in Perkeso disability

claims were linked to a cartel engaged in falsifying these claims.

A news portal reported that Lingeshwaran told the Dewan Negara that a medical panel was suspended until further notice after Perkeso discovered the syndicate at a hospital in the state.

The senator was reported as saying that he was informed the cartel was lobbying for the suspended panel to be brought back to the same hospital.

He also told the Dewan Negara that between 2018 and 2022, there were 683 fraudulent withdrawals involving some RM43 million.

He added that 16 of those cases involved one particular doctor, whose services were terminated after the discovery.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
 MUKA SURAT : 6
 RUANGAN : NATION

More awareness needed on mpox

Malaysians hope govt will implement preventive measures to curb its spread locally

By IMRAN HILMY
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GEORGE TOWN: While there is currently no widespread concern of mpox, people are hoping that the government will increase awareness and implement preventive measures to curb its spread locally.

Pensioner Kasmawati Mohammad, 63, suggested that the government should begin by raising awareness about the disease and enforcing preventive measures in schools and public spaces like restaurants and shopping malls.

During a check at several restaurants here recently, it was observed that patrons were dining without adhering to physical distancing guidelines.

At a popular nasi kandar outlet, staff made efforts to encourage customers to maintain physical distancing while queuing outside.

The restaurant's director Muhammad Riyaaz Syed Ibrahim noted the challenge of enforcing these measures during busy periods.

"Although it's not mandatory, we encourage physical distancing and ensure that tables are sanitised after each use. We also conduct thorough cleaning weekly to keep the restaurant clean," he said.

At another restaurant, physical distancing was not observed among customers waiting in line.

Its operator Rizuan Kechik, 47, said he stopped asking customers to practise physical distancing due to a lack of instructions from the authorities.

He expressed willingness to



Prioritising hygiene: A worker at a restaurant in George Town cleaning a table with sanitiser after use by customers. — KT GOH/The Star

reintroduce such measures if directed by the authorities for safety reasons.

"I hope the situation isn't severe, but if the authorities feel the need to reintroduce the measure, we will be happy to comply," he said.

Pensioner Abdul Khalid Mat Isa, 62, said that he heard the virus could be transmitted through direct contact.

The Kuala Lumpur resident

shared that his family is taking precautions, such as regular hand washing and avoiding crowded places.

Senior executive Syairah Abdullah, 28, from Selangor, expressed concern about mpox as she is expecting her second child soon.

"I remind myself and my family about the importance of cleanliness to minimise the risk of infection," she said.

Meanwhile, state youth, sports and health committee chairman Daniel Gooi Zi Sen urged local and foreign tourists to be vigilant whenever they are out in public.

He said high-risk individuals who experience symptoms of mpox such as fever, swollen lymph nodes and rashes should seek immediate medical attention at the nearest clinic or hospital.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr

"I remind myself and my family about the importance of cleanliness to minimise the risk of infection."

Syairah Abdullah

Dzulkefly Ahmad recently announced that the country will receive mpox vaccines distributed through the Covid-19 Asean Response Fund.

"We will take delivery of Tecovirimat Antiviral (TPOXX) and MVA-BN vaccine for mpox," he said in two brief X posts.

"TPOXX is used in the treatment of mpox, especially those who have acute infection and a weak immune system."

Mpox is a viral disease caused by the monkeypox virus, which is part of the *Orthopoxvirus* genus.

It was first discovered in monkeys in 1958, with the first human case recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As of Aug 26, there were 31 suspected cases of mpox in Malaysia, of which 25 cases have been confirmed negative while six are still being monitored.

On Aug 14, the World Health Organisation declared mpox a global public health emergency of international concern.

AKHBAR : THE SUN
 MUKA SURAT : 6
 RUANGAN : NATIONAL



Surge in popularity of e-cigarettes, vapes

► Data underscores need for enforcement of law to curb accessibility to youngsters

KUALA LUMPUR: E-cigarettes and vapes are now the most popular nicotine products among youth, outpacing other options.

This finding, published in the National Health and Morbidity Survey - 2022: Adolescent Health Survey by the Institute for Public Health, reveals a concerning shift in smoking trends among youth.

While traditional cigarette smoking has decreased from 13.8% in 2017 to 6.2% in 2022, e-cigarette use has surged from 9.8% to 14.9% over the same period.

This data underscores an urgent need for the enforcement of the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 (Act 852) to curb the appeal and accessibility of e-cigarettes to young individuals.

E-cigarette and vape usage among adolescents were found to be highest in Sarawak, Labuan, Sabah and Kelantan.

The prevalence in these states is about 5% higher compared with the

national average of 14.9%.

Data shows about 35% of users purchased the products from e-cigarette and vape shops, while 38% acquired them from friends.

More recently, a vape vending machine was set up in a mall in Kuala Lumpur and users need only pay with a card or e-wallet to complete a purchase. No age verification method was employed to prevent potentially underage individuals from buying the products.

During the rise of e-cigarettes in 2015, particularly vaping in Malaysia, several incidents involving young children were reported.

National Poison Centre (NPC) chief pharmacist Sulastris Samsudin recounted a case involving a nine-year-old suspected of vape poisoning.

"The child wanted to try out a relative's mango milk-flavoured vape product. The flavour and the device, which often looks attractive to young children, were left out in the open



E-cigarette and vape usage among adolescents were found to be most prevalent in Sarawak, Labuan, Sabah and Kelantan. — AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

within easy reach of the child with no safety precautions in place.

"The child then discreetly tried the vape product. When the doctor from the hospital called us, it was to report the case of the child being suspected of nicotine poisoning."

Sulastris added that accidental poisoning from children drinking vape liquid peaked during the Covid-19 pandemic. But since 2022,

substance abuse cases have become more prevalent, Bernama reported.

NPC received calls linked to 14 cases of vape poisoning in 2024, of which ten involved suspected substance abuse, with most involving youth and claims of using "magic mushrooms".

According to Sulastris, most cases referred to NPC involved symptoms of altered and aggressive behaviour,

hallucinations and strange conduct.

"This substance abuse can cause a number of psychiatric effects. One case reported to us involved a 14-year-old who confessed to inserting 'mushroom' into a vaping device to inhale it."

Sulastris expressed hope regarding Act 852, which covers e-cigarettes and vapes, as the previous legislation had many loopholes.

"The Act needs to look into flavour, shape, nicotine concentration and formulation. There is a new formulation of nicotine called nicotine salt, which is becoming a new addiction.

"Nicotine salt formulation has a higher nicotine concentration than the freebase version which usually contains up to 20mg," she said.

She cautioned that a disposable nicotine salt packaging stating 5% nicotine could mean 50mg per ml of the product. Therefore, 5ml of the liquid will contain 250mg of nicotine.

She also said the new formulation masks the bitterness and harshness typical of freebase nicotine, making it more attractive to youth.

"It is an innovation that (manufacturers) have developed so that more people will use it."