

King calls on rakyat to unite in fight against virus

PETALING JAYA: Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah has called on Malaysians to put aside their differences to help fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It is time for us to put aside political, racial and religious differences and show the spirit of loyalty, humanitarianism and steadfastness in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic," said His Majesty in a statement issued by Comptroller of the Royal Household of Istana Negara Datuk Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin yesterday.

His Majesty is confident that with the support and cooperation of all parties, the country will be able to once again flatten the curve of the Covid-19 infection as well as ease the burden borne by frontliners.

"His Majesty also expressed concern over the increase in the need for treatment and the use of beds in the intensive care unit (ICU), especially in the Klang Valley, following a sharp increase in positive cases," said Ahmad Fadil.

The country recorded 3,306 cases of new Covid-19 infections on Monday while 15 Covid-19 hospitals reported over 70% Covid-19 (non-ICU) bed usage.

"His Majesty said the use of ICU beds for Covid-19 patients in Kuala

Lumpur Hospital and University Malaya Medical Centre had reached full capacity while it was 80% at Sungai Buloh Hospital," said Ahmad Fadil.

His Majesty also said that more than 70% of ICU beds for Covid-19 patients were in use in hospitals in Perak, Selangor, Melaka, Terengganu and Sarawak.

Despite the rise in cases, Ahmad Fadil said Sultan Abdullah expressed disappointment that there were still those who went about their daily lives without maintaining self-discipline under the new normal.

"In this regard, His Majesty calls on the rakyat to show solidarity and support for the frontliners by working together, with self discipline, in complying with all directives set by the government and the standard operating procedure SOP.

"With cooperation and collaboration of the rakyat, the King is confident that we will not only be able to flatten the Covid-19 curve, but we can ease the burden faced by the frontliners," he added.

Ahmad Fadil said His Majesty commended the tremendous sacrifices made by frontliners since the outbreak began early last year.

He called on the frontliners to remain steadfast in their battle against the pandemic.



Nerve centre: Sultan Abdullah being briefed by Health Ministry disease control director Datuk Dr Norhayati Rusli (left) during a visit to the ministry's Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre in Putrajaya on March 18 last year. Yesterday, the King hoped that the unwavering spirit of the frontliners since the Covid-19 pandemic began is appreciated by all. — Bernama