



**MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE
CURRENT SITUATION OF THE COVID-19 INFECTION
IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

12 April 2020

1. The Ministry of Health would like to announce that today, Sunday, 18 Syaaban 1441 / 12 April 2020, *Alhamdulillah*, by the grace of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, there is no new case of COVID-19 infection in the country. Therefore, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam **remains at 136 cases**.
2. Meanwhile, **2 more cases** treated at the National Isolation Centre have recovered and allowed to return home, bringing the total number of people recovered so far to **106 people**.
3. At present, there are 29 cases that are still being treated at the National Isolation Centre, where 2 are still in critical condition and both require heart / lung machine (ECMO) and respiratory assistance. Meanwhile, the rest are in a stable condition.
4. At this time, a total of **2,334 individuals** have completed their quarantine in accordance to the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 204) and only **66 individuals** are undergoing quarantine. Meanwhile, as of today, a total of 1,142 individuals have ended their mandatory self-isolation period in the

monitoring centers provided by the government upon returning to the country after traveling internationally.

5. Meanwhile, in the past 24 hours, a total of **247 samples have been tested** for the virus SARS-CoV-2 that brings the total amount of laboratory tests conducted since January 2020 to **9,884 tests**.

6. However, one of the cases that had recovered and allowed to return home was re-admitted to the National Isolation Center for further investigation because the case started developing symptoms and has tested positive again. As such, the Ministry of Health is now changing the policy for those who have recovered and allowed to return home to undergo another 14 days self-isolation at home and will undertake laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2 virus according to the schedule allocated. This is a follow-up treatment given to those who had undergone treatment in the National Isolation Center. Any cases that are found to be positive will be referred back to the National Isolation Center for further investigation and treatment.

7. Since the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Brunei Darussalam, many false and misleading news has been spread on social media. While it does not bring any benefit to the well-being of the people in the country, such news is only intended to scare and cause anxiety and panic amongst the public. The act of disseminating unsubstantiated information, let alone falsely created by those who intend to mislead is an offense and may be prosecuted under the Public Order Act, Cap 148, Section 34 where any

individual either verbally or in writing or using any means, disseminating false reports or making false statements, resulting in disturbing public order, if found guilty can be charge with three years' imprisonment and a fine of up to BND3,000. The public is also advised not to believe in information and news being disseminated on the Internet or through other media such as WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook without ascertaining its authenticity. People are also reminded to be more responsible and to avoid spreading baseless information.

8. For further information and latest updates, members of the public can visit the official website of the Ministry of Health at **www.moh.gov.bn** or by contacting **the Health Advice Line 148 (operating 24-hours)** or through the web application **healthinfo.gov.bn**

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Reference : KK/PR/2

Date : 18 Syaaban 1441H / 12 April 2020