



**MEDIA STATEMENT  
ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE COVID-19  
IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM  
20 March 2020**

1. The Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam would like to update the public on the COVID-19 situation in the country.
2. As of today, 20 March 2020, **5** new cases have been confirmed **bringing the total number of cases in Brunei Darussalam to 78 people.**
  - Cases 74, 75, 76 and 77 are contacts of Case 69. All of these Cases do not have travel histories and have not shown any symptoms of the infection.
  - Case 78, aged 54, is a British citizen who works in Brunei Darussalam and arrived on 16 March 2020 on-board flight BI004 (seat 53G). Case 78 has undergone laboratory test for COVID-19 after being told that one of the passengers sitting nearby (seat 50D) who had gone to Hong Kong has been found to be positive of COVID-19 upon arrival in Hong Kong. Epidemiological investigations does not link the current Case with Case 73 who was on-board the same flight (seat 9A).
3. In this regard, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that Alhamdulillah, **one case** who had undergone treatment at the National Isolation Centre has recovered and allowed to return home. However, the patient is advised to continue to undergo self-isolation for 7 days at home.

4. This means that there are currently 77 cases who are still undergoing treatment at the Centre. There are two cases who are currently in critical condition and are in need to respiratory assistance, however they are gradually recovering. Five other cases are being monitored closely, while the remaining cases are well and in a stable condition.
5. The Ministry of Health is still actively performing contact tracing for every confirmed case, whereby 1,664 individuals are currently undergoing quarantine according to the Infectious Disease Act (Chapter 204). To date, 101 individuals have completed their quarantine at the Sports Village Complex or in their respective homes, and are well. Since early January 2020, a total of 2,468 laboratory tests for COVID-19 have been conducted.
6. To accommodate the growing demand of laboratory tests for COVID-19, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the construction of an additional virology laboratory at Jalan Sumbiling, Bandar Seri Begawan. The construction of this laboratory is well underway.
7. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public of the conditions of the individuals who had attended the tabligh congregation in Kuala Lumpur and are still in Kuala Lumpur, of which 6 of them have been found to be positive for COVID-19 and are currently being treated in hospital, while 3 was found to be negative.
8. The Ministry of Health would also like to inform the public on the updated mandatory isolation instruction for all passengers arriving in Brunei Darussalam via the Brunei International Airport beginning 20 March 2020, in which this

instruction is inclusive of visitors and foreign workers coming into the country. Therefore, the arrival of visitors and foreign workers are not encouraged at the moment. Any foreign workers arriving in Brunei Darussalam is required to borne all isolation costs, including accommodation, meals and all other related costs. However, submission of a special application for the arrival of all foreign workers is also required, and this will be elaborated further by Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs.

9. All passengers and visitors are required to undergo mandatory self-isolation at designated facilities such as hotels, apartments or hostels. Costs for their respective stays, inclusive or meals are as follows:

<b>Type of Accommodation, (inclusive of meals )</b>	<b>Citizens and Permanent Residents of Brunei Darussalam</b>	<b>Foreigners (including visitors or foreign workers)</b>
Hotels, apartments, hostels designated by the Government	Free	\$30 - \$50 per day dependent on type of accommodation
The Empire Hotel and Country Club	\$100 per day (contact the Empire Hotel for reservation)	Market price (contact the Empire Hotel for reservation)
Other hotels	On-going discussion	

10. The utilisation of these accommodations are for health monitoring purposes only, for those who had made international travels. They are not contact to Cases, nor are they suspected to have been infected by COVID-19. The public should not worry about their presence and they are urged to refrain from sensationalising the situation. The Government appreciates the cooperation,

commitment and sacrifices made by business owners and managers of these hotels, apartments and hostels in ensuring the success of the containment of COVID-19 in the country.

11. In this regard, any visitors arriving in the country via land or sea are required to undergo self-isolation for 14 days commencing from the date of their arrival in Brunei Darussalam.

12. 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 (HAL 148)** (operating 24-hours).

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Reference : KK/PR/2

Date : 25 Rejab 1441H / 20 March 2020