



KEMENTERIAN SUMBER MANUSIA

“
**KERATAN
AKHBAR
KESUMA**”

**JUMAAT
6 SEPTEMBER 2024**



TUNTUTAN PALSU PERKESO

Tiga lagi direman

Georgetown: Tiga lagi individu terdiri daripada dua doktor ortopedik dan seorang ejen direman bagi membantu siasatan kartel pemalsuan tuntutan hilang upaya Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (Perkeso).

Perintah reman terhadap ketiga-tiga suspek berusia 32, 43 dan 50 tahun itu dikeluarkan Majistret Siti Nurul Suhaila Baharin selama empat hari bermula semalam.

Kesemua mereka direman bagi membantu siasatan mengikut Seksyen 18 Akta Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) 2009.

Jika sabit kesalahan boleh membawa hukuman penjara maksimum 20 tahun dan denda minimum lima kali nilai butir palsu itu atau RM10,000 mengikut mana lebih tinggi.

Terdahulu, semua suspek tiba ke Kompleks Mahkamah Georgetown, di sini, kira-kira jam 9 pagi dengan berpakaian lokap SPRM.

Kedua-dua doktor masing-masing berusia 43 dan 50 tahun yang berkhidmat di sebuah hospital di Seberang Perai itu ditahan dalam operasi, kelmarin.

Terdahulu, media melaporkan tiga doktor antara 33 individu direman bagi membantu siasatan selepas dipercayai terbabit dengan kartel pemalsuan tuntutan hilang upaya Perkeso berjumlah RM2.1 juta sejak 2017.

Kebanyakan mereka membuat tuntutan palsu atas alasan kecederaan Ligamen Anterior Cruciate (ACL) dan mengalami masalah tulang rawan tergelincir (slip disc).

Kartel tuntutan PERKESO: Dua lagi doktor pakar tulang, ejen direman

GEORGE TOWN - Dua lagi doktor pakar tulang hospital kerajaan dan seorang ejen direman empat hari bagi membantu siasatan berhubung kes memalsukan tuntutan hilang upaya (PERKESO) pada Khamis.

Perintah reman tersebut dikeluarkan Majistret Siti Nurul Suhaila Baharin di Mahkamah Majistret Jenayah 1 di sini pada Khamis.

Kesemua mereka ditahan di Ibu Pejabat Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) pada Rabu selepas ditangkap dalam satu operasi.

Tangkapan mereka itu dibuat susulan daripada tangkapan tiga

doktor dan 30 individu membabitkan kes sama pada Rabu.

Menurut sumber, kedua-dua doktor berusia 43 dan 50 tahun, manakala ejen berusia 32 tahun.

"Kedua-dua doktor tersebut bertugas di sebuah hospital kerajaan di Seberang Jaya," katanya.

Beliau berkata, mereka juga bergiat aktif sejak 2017 sehingga tahun ini.

"Kemungkinan akan ada lagi tangkapan membabitkan kartel tuntutan PERKESO serta dokumen palsu dengan bantuan doktor yang bersekongkol.

"Sehingga hari ini, SPRM telah menahan 36 suspek berkaitan kes ini dan

turut menyita wang tunai, barang kemas, beg berjenama, kenderaan mewah, nombor plat kenderaan mewah, jam tangan mewah, motosikal, telefon bimbit dan barangan mewah dengan jumlah terkini keseluruhan bernilai kira-kira RM1 juta.

"Siasatan awal turut mendapati nilai wang rasuah yang terlibat dalam kegiatan ini berjumlah kira-kira RM2 juta," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pengarah SPRM Pulau Pinang, Datuk Mohd Fuad Bee Basrah mengesahkan tangkapan tersebut.

Kes disiasat di bawah Seksyen 18 Akta SPRM 2009.



Kesemua suspek ditahan reman selama empat hari bagi membantu siasatan.

'Tuntutan palsu umpama rompak wang pencarum'

Langgar prinsip keadilan, integriti dana keselamatan sosial dikhususkan untuk bantu pekerja yang benar-benar memerlukan

Oleh **SITI NOOR FAEZAH MUDA SHAH ALAM**

Tindakan memalsukan tuntutan hilang upaya Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (PERKESO) yang bertujuan melindungi kebajikan individu sekiranya berlaku kemalangan, penyakit atau kecederaan berkaitan pekerjaan umpama rompak terhadap wang pencarum.

Presiden Kongres Kesatuan Sekerja Malaysia (MTUC), Mohd Effendy Abdul Ghani berkata, tuntutan palsu itu turut melanggar prinsip keadilan dan integriti dana keselamatan sosial dikhususkan untuk membantu pekerja yang benar-benar memerlukan.

"Penyalahgunaan dana ini bukan sahaja merosakkan sistem perlindungan sosial bahkan menafikan hak pekerja yang sah untuk menerima manfaat mereka.

"Lebih malang apabila kegiatan terukut ini turut memabukkan pengamal perubatan, termasuk doktor pakar yang bersekolong selepas dikaburi dengan laba yang dijanjikan rangkaian kartel," katanya

kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Menurut Mohd Effendy, tuntutan palsu turut menambah beban pentadbiran serta kos pengurusan PERKESO yang boleh memaksa organisasi itu menaikkan kadar sumbangan di masa hadapan.

Beliau berkata, perkara tersebut akan memberi kesan negatif kepada pencarum sah yang terpaksa menanggung beban tambahan akibat penipuan berkenaan.

"Kami ingin mengingatkan mereka yang terlibat dalam kegiatan tuntutan palsu boleh dikenakan tindakan undang-undang tegas di bawah Akta Keselamatan Sosial Pekerja 1969, memperuntukkan hukuman denda tinggi dan penjara bagi pesalah.

"MTUC menyeru semua pihak untuk bekerjasama dalam memastikan integriti sistem PERKESO terpelihara. Kami juga menggesa pekerja dan majikan supaya mematuhi undang-undang dan hanya membuat tuntutan yang sah," ujarnya.

Beliau berkata, MTUC memuji tindakan proaktif PERKESO yang berjaya mengesan dan mendedahkan isu kartel tuntutan palsu tersebut.

Mohd Effendy berkata, pihaknya berpendirian bahawa sebarang tindakan penipuan atau penyalahgunaan dana pencarum harus dibantah dengan segera demi menjaga kepentingan pekerja dan mengekalkan keberkesanan sistem keselamatan sosial negara.

Sementara itu, Presiden Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan



MOHD EFFENDY



SYED HUSSAIN

Malaysia (MEF), Datuk Syed Hussain Syed Husman berkata, tindakan memalsukan tuntutan hilang upaya bertentangan dengan budaya kejujuran dan nilai Malaysia dan tindakan serius mesti diambil.

"Perbuatan menipu mesti dihukum. Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim telah menjelaskan sistem kerja telus yang jujur amat diperlukan. MEF menyokong tindakan serius mesti diambil dalam perkara ini.

"MEF berharap kejadian ini akan menjadi pengajaran kepada semua yang terlibat dalam aktiviti penipuan. Sedih juga apabila doktor yang bersumpah memberi khidmat kepada orang ramai secara jujur dan amanah terlibat dalam penipuan seperti ini. Harap kegiatan ini tidak akan berulang pada masa akan datang," katanya.

Pada Rabu, prosedur operasi standard (SOP) bagi tuntutan faedah termasuk Hilang Upaya Kekal (HUK) PERKESO diumumkan akan dirombak serta-merta bagi membendung penyelewengan tuntutan palsu berulang.

Menteri Sumber Manusia, Steven Sim berkata, ia susulan kes penahanan 32 individu termasuk tiga doktor oleh Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) menerusi Op Tunjang bersama agensi berkenaan.

TUNTUTAN FAEDAH PERKESO

Terdapat beberapa keadaan yang mana pekerja boleh membuat tuntutan atas Skim Bencana Pekerjaan yang disediakan oleh PERKESO. Berikut adalah perlindungan yang disediakan mengikut kemalangan atau penyakit khidmat seperti:

- Kemalangan Semasa Menjalankan Pekerjaan
- Kemalangan Semasa Dalam Perjalanan
- Penyakit Khidmat

Melalui skim bencana pekerjaan ini, PERKESO telah menggariskan beberapa faedah yang anda boleh dapat sekiranya terlibat kemalangan atau penyakit khidmat seperti di bawah:

- Faedah Perubatan
- Faedah Hilang Upaya Sementara (HUS)
- Faedah Hilang Upaya Kekal (HUK)
- Elaun Layanan Sentiasa
- Faedah Orang Tanggungan (FOT)
- Faedah Pengurusan Mayat
- Faedah Pendidikan
- Kemudahan Pemulihan Jasmani/Vokasional

Syarat Tuntutan PERKESO

Berdasarkan jenis-jenis tuntutan PERKESO di atas ia boleh dimohon mengikut syarat-syarat yang ditetapkan. Berikut adalah syarat bagi membuat tuntutan PERKESO:

- Kemalangan yang ditimpa semasa berada di tempat kerja atau sedang menjalankan urusan kerja
- Kemalangan ketika dalam perjalanan merangkumi seperti:
 1. Mengikuti laluan dari tempat kediamannya atau tempat tinggalnya dengan tempat kerjanya
 2. Dibuat untuk apa-apa sebab yang secara langsung berkaitan dengan perkara pengajiannya
 3. Di antara tempat kerjanya dengan tempat pergi makan semasa masa rehat yang dibenarkan

Kemalangan semasa kecemasan dirujuk syarat seperti:

- Kemalangan yang berlaku ketika pekerja berada dalam atau berdekatan dengan mana-mana premis tempat bekerjanya bagi untuk menyelamatkan, membantu atau melindungi orang yang mendapat bencana atau bahaya semasa kecemasan.

Senarai Penyakit Khidmat PERKESO

Pelbagai jenis penyakit khidmat telah digariskan di mana penyakit-penyakit ini berpunca atau terbit daripada pekerjaan sebagaimana yang disenaraikan di Jadual Kelima, Akta Keselamatan Sosial Pekerja 1969.

Contoh Penyakit Khidmat:

- Hilang pendengaran disebabkan oleh paras tekanan bunyi tinggi yang berterusan.
- Penyakit asma disebabkan oleh pekerjaan yang melibatkan pendedahan berterusan kepada sedutan habuk atau bahan kimia yang berbahaya dan sebagainya.



Laporan muka hadapan *Sinar Harian* pada Khamis.



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NST LEADER

Of doctors and doctoring

Greed and poor governance
are to be blamed

DOCTORING, in the sense of giving medical treatment, is what we expect doctors to do. But some doctors, as we have come to know, are given to doctoring in the second sense: practising deceit. If Tuesday's arrests of three senior doctors allegedly linked to a cartel involved in falsifying Social Security Organisation (Perkeso) disability claims in Penang are anything to go by, the moral fever among some of the medical professionals in government and private hospitals there must be high. If three doctors are three too many, wait till the arrest of a fourth one. What is worse, Perkeso claims fraud involving doctors isn't a new affliction. A news portal quoted Senator Dr Lingeshwaran R. Arunasalam as having told the Dewan Negara that between 2018 and 2022 there were 683 fraudulent withdrawals amounting to some RM43 million. One doctor, who has since been dismissed, had 16 fraudulent withdrawals to his name. Call it serial doctoring, in the second sense, of course.

Are the recent arrests the tip of the iceberg? Hard to tell, but when deceit acquires the size of a cartel, it is likely to be. We leave that to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to size

“...there is sufficiency in the world for a man's need, but not for man's greed.”

it up. But a question needs to be asked: why do senior doctors doctor documents for money when they earn decent salaries? There is only one answer. Greed. For the greedy, no amount of money is enough. As the saying goes, there is sufficiency in the world for a man's need, but not for man's

greed. Put them on a salary of RM20,000, RM50,000 or RM100,000 a month, they will hunt for more. These doctors are ideal targets of cartels, if they are not themselves the kingpins. Cartels love the greedy, and the greedy either form one or love to be part of one. But they will soon learn that greed has a great fall waiting for them. The job they studied so hard for will be gone forever. Next will be the shame of imprisonment and all the humiliation that comes with it. Greed doesn't only destroy the deceitful doctor, but his innocent family, too. This is humiliation most unfair. Being a doctor is a privilege to better the lives of others, not to destroy them, including one's own.

Unfortunately, deceit such as doctoring documents can't be legislated out of existence. But it can be minimised by robust governance. We are sure that if proper governance was in place at the government and private hospitals, the likelihood of fraudulent claims getting through would be very low. If media reports are right, some of the fraudulent claims were made by Perkeso members with no disability to show at all. This is mind boggling. How could oversight be this bad? Didn't the orthopaedist's approval pass through another level of review at least? Now, hospitals, both public and private, will have no choice but to introduce a few more layers of review before approving the disability claims. Perkeso, too, may have to tighten its claims approval process. It can't afford to allow such improper diversion of public funds. The unfortunate outcome of all this will be delay in the approval of genuine disability claims. Call it collateral damage.

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FISHING EXPEDITION

11 held in Philippines for border intrusion to be sent home

KOTA KINABALU: Eleven people detained by Philippine authorities for crossing their border illegally will be flown to Manila before repatriation, said Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

“The eight Chinese nationals and three Malaysians will be flown to Manila for documentation checks and verification, ahead of their deportation.

“I learnt that they will be flown to Manila tomorrow (today) morning,” he said after the launch of the 2024 Convention on Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour Crimes at the Sabah International Conven-



Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor (second from right), Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (right), Human Resources Minister Steven Sim (left) and Sabah Community Development and People’s Wellbeing Minister Datuk James Ratib at the launch of the 2024 Convention on Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour Crimes at the Sabah International Convention Centre in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. PIC BY MOHD ADAM ARININ

tion Centre here.

He was commenting on the detention of 11 people by Philippine authorities in Tugayo Hunasan, Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi, on Sept 1.

The 11 had claimed that they were fishing in Malaysian waters and did not realise that they had drifted across the border to the

Philippines.

Saifuddin said he had learnt that another four Malaysians were being detained at a similar site in the southern Philippines.

“It is certain that the Philippine authorities will detain the boat owner responsible for border violation.”

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FALSE PERKESO CLAIMS PROBE

3 MORE REMANDED

The trio, two doctors and an agent head, ordered to be remanded for four days

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ANOTHER three people, two of whom are doctors, have been remanded over a probe into a cartel accused of falsifying Social Security Organisation (Perkeso) disability claims. Sources said the three — an orthopaedic surgeon, a medical officer and the agent head — aged between 32 and 50, were detained on Wednesday during an operation.

“As for the agent head, we remanded his father yesterday (Wednesday),” the source said. The three arrived at the magistrate’s court at 8.54am in a Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission van. Clad in orange MACC attire, they were handcuffed as they were led to the courtroom, drawing attention from curious on-lookers. Magistrate Siti Nurul Suhaila Baharin ordered the trio to be remanded for four days. They are being investigated under Section 18 of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009. The trio’s arrests brought to 36 the total number of individuals remanded in connection with the disability fraud. Speaking to the *New Straits Times* later, lawyer S. Yagoo, who appeared for the surgeon, said he had asked the court to only allow a one-day remand order of his

client as he had been cooperative with the authorities. “He is still in service and of no flight risk. He is also unwell and has seven children. “The MACC had requested for a one-week remand order but the court allowed four days instead,” he added. On Wednesday, 33 people, including three senior doctors and a woman, were remanded over their alleged links to the cartel accused of falsifying Perkeso disability claims. The doctors were remanded for two days, while the woman was held for one day. The remaining suspects were remanded for three days. Besides the three doctors, others remanded included 19 Perkeso contributors, eight agents and three runners, all aged between 26 and 60. Following the arrest of the 33, MACC seized cash, jewellery, two luxury handbags, luxury vehi-



An orthopaedic surgeon, a medical officer and an agent head arriving at the magistrate’s court in George Town, Penang, yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

cles, 33 mobile phones and other valuables worth RM500,000 from some of them. Initial investigations also indicated that the total amount of bribes involved to be RM2 million.

The suspects were believed to have colluded with agents or runners and the medical officers from public and private hospitals to submit fake documents for permanent disability claims to Perkeso.



Facing the music: The trio (in orange) being escorted by MACC officials at the Penang Courts Complex in George Town. — LIM BENG TATT/The Star

Penang hospitals' operations unaffected

By **IMRAN HILMY**
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GEORGE TOWN: Two public hospitals in Penang will continue to operate as usual despite the arrest of four orthopaedic specialists who are implicated in a fraudulent Social Security Organisation (Socso) claim scam.

Penang Health Department director Datuk Dr Fazilah Shaik Allaudin said the departments where the doctors were serving are still running as usual. One of them is serving at a hospital in Bukit Mertajam while three others are with a hospital in Seberang Jaya.

"The hospitals are not affected at all," she said briefly.

Asked if the doctors involved would be suspended, Dr Fazilah said the case was still under investigation, adding that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) should be given time and space to carry out their duties.

Yesterday, magistrate Siti Nurul Suhaila Baharin issued a four-day remand order on another three people, including two doctors, to facilitate investiga-

tion into the alleged falsifying of Socso disability claims amounting to RM2.1mil since 2017.

The doctors, aged 43 and 50, are from a public hospital in Seberang Jaya while another individual, 32, is said to be an agent.

This brought the total number of arrests made to 36, including the 33 people who MACC remanded to facilitate investigations under Section 18 of the MACC Act 2009 for the submission of false claims.

The offence carries a maximum sentence of 20 years' jail and a fine of RM10,000 or five times the value of the false claims, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

Of the total, five of them are orthopaedic specialists aged between 36 and 57. One of them is with a private hospital in Butterworth while the rest are from public hospitals.

The others who are being remanded include 19 private sector employees, nine agents and three runners aged between 26 and 60.

During the Dewan Negara sessions in July, a senator from Penang Dr RA Lingeshwaran

called on the government, particularly the Human Resources Ministry, to explain the alleged suspension of senior doctors handling Socso disability claims purportedly linked to a cartel in the state.

He had reportedly brought the matter up at the Dewan Negara on July 28, stating that the panel was suspended until further notice after Socso discovered the racket at a hospital in Penang.

In asking Socso for an update, Dr Lingeshwaran, who was a former director of Hospital Sungai Bakap, said the cartel was believed to be lobbying for the suspended doctors to return to work at the same hospital.

He also claimed there were 683 fraudulent Socso withdrawals from 2018 to 2022 involving about RM43mil, of which 16 involved a certain doctor whose services were terminated after the activities were exposed.



Challenging to maintain workplace safety: Expert

➤ Many accident cases involve foreign workers who do not use safety equipment or adhere to guidelines due to lack of awareness

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA
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PETALING JAYA: Despite amendments to the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act 1994, including the introduction of the workplace safety coordinator requirement, challenges persist in maintaining consistent safety standards across all sectors.

Alliance For A Safe Community chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said fostering a safety culture in the workplace is crucial and should be seen as a core element of organisation values and daily practices.

"Employers play a crucial role in shaping the culture of their organisations and this includes fostering a safe workplace. For a safety culture to be effectively developed and sustained, key decision-makers within the organisation need to embrace and practise safety."

On Monday, the Social Security Organisation reported 41,278 work related accidents between January and June.

Human Resources Minister Steven Sim said 52.2% or 21,508 cases were industrial accidents.

Lee said the construction and manufacturing sectors have seen the highest number of workplace accidents in recent years, with a significant issue being the attitudes of foreign workers, who make up the majority of the workforce.

"Many of these workers have minimal knowledge about safety and health. Although they are provided with personal protective equipment, such as safety helmets, shoes and harnesses, they often choose not to use them since they come from countries where there is little exposure to such equipment."

He said it is crucial for contractors employing these workers to ensure SOP and safety procedures are followed at the work site.

He also said in the manufacturing sector, particularly within small and medium enterprises (SME), the main challenges revolve around the need for improved safety standards.

"The understanding and implementation of safety standards in SME are often insufficient, primarily because ensuring safety at the workplace requires significant investment, which many SME are reluctant to make."

"Since SME contribute to more

than 85% of the country's economic growth, ensuring the safety and health of employees in these workplaces is critical."

Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) president Datuk Syed Hussain Syed Husman said according to the Statistics Department National Accident Report for 2022, the most common types of industrial accidents were those involving stepping on, striking against or being struck by objects, including falling objects, which accounted for 8,522 cases.

He said 7,944 cases were falls involving individuals, 5,199 were other types of accidents, 4,750 were overexertion or strenuous movements and 4,197 were workers being caught in or between objects.

"Employers should self-regulate the law and implement best practices, developing a generative safety culture."

"Management at all levels must lead by example, ensure OSH resources are available and maintain regular communication with regulatory bodies."

He said MEF advocates that employers comply with the OSH Act 1994, including establishing an OSH policy, appointing a safety and health officer, conducting continuous hazard monitoring through risk assessments and controls, and fostering a safety and health culture.

"Employees must take responsibility for their own safety and adhere to safety guidelines. While the government and employers can implement security measures, it is the employees who are the primary users of these measures."

"It is a collective effort to save lives and losing one is a significant loss to the country, employers and families."



EXOTIC FOLIAGE ... Botany enthusiasts Mohd Hashim Omar and his wife Kamariah Isa tending to two specimens of a rare 'Antlers Plant' (*Plati Holttumii*) at their home in Kampung Kejai Kulim, Kedah. - MASRY CHE ANI/THE SUN