

Maeps to be converted into migrants quarantine centre again

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The Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (Maeps) in Selangor will be converted into a quarantine centre for migrants once again.

Defence Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said this is in light of the sharp increase in Covid-19 cases, as well as the screening of migrant workers being carried out by the Social Security Organisation (Socso).

He said Maeps will be equipped with up to 10,000 beds, over three phases.

Only migrants who are asymptomatic, or have minor symptoms will be quarantined there, he said.

Maeps was previously used as a quarantine centre for undocumented migrants from April 16 to July 15.

Meanwhile, Ismail announced that starting tomorrow, there will be a mass

screening exercise at Sector A of the Central Spectrum at Pulau Indah in Klang, Selangor.

The exercise will involve 45 companies, 102 premises, and 1,200 residents who are mostly migrants.

He said if the need arises, the screening will be expanded to Sectors B and C.

In a separate press conference, Health director-general Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said they are expecting the number of cases to increase with the focused screening on foreign workers.

Most of the cases detected from this exercise are expected to go into low-risk quarantine centres, which Maeps is one of them.

"Some 80 percent of cases are in Category 1, which is for asymptomatic positive cases, while those in Category 2 (positive with mild symptoms) make about 14 percent.

"So, 94 percent of the cases would be placed in the low-risk quarantine centres. We have identified premises to be used as these centres in every state.

"Cases in Category 3, 4 and 5 make less than five percent from the total number.

And our hospitals are capable of coping," he said.

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