



## **LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA ISNIN / 13 OGOS 2018**

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**DISEDIAKAN OLEH:  
CAWANGAN KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT  
(MADA)**

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## ***Bakal diiktiraf warisan tanaman padi***

**BUKIT MERTA JAM** - Kampung Terus yang kaya dengan sawah padi di Penanti akan diiktiraf sebagai sebuah warisan tanaman padi, kata Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik.

Bakhtiar berkata hasrat itu akan direalisasikan berikutan Kampung Terus merupakan tapak pertama penanaman padi di Seberang Perai sejak abad ke-17.

"Jika betul ada bukti sejarah Kampung Terus mempunyai bendang (sawah padi) yang tertua di Seberang Perai, saya boleh angkat ia sebagai satu produk warisan," katanya ketika merasmikan Festival Padi Antarabangsa Pulau Pinang, di sini semalam.

Bakhtiar berkata kerajaan telah mewujudkan Jabatan Warisan Negara di bawah Kementerian Pelancongan Seni dan Budaya dan jabatan itu amat komited untuk mengiktiraf dan bekerjasama dengan mana-mana pihak dalam memajukan industri pelancongan serta meles-tarikan aktiviti-aktiviti seni



**Bakhtiar (tengah) ketika membuat lawatan pada Pesta Padi Antarabangsa Pulau Pinang di Kampung Terus, semalam.**

dan kebudayaan Malaysia.

Beliau berkata penduduk setempat harus bersedia menerima kunjungan orang luar yang berkunjung ke Kampung Terus kerana lokasi itu berpotensi untuk menjadi destinasi agro pelancongan di Malaysia.

"Orang Penanti harus sedia memasarkan Kampung Terus sebagai destinasi agro pelancongan. Sekarang ini masyarakat majoriti guna media sosial, 97 peratus

daripada 'posting' pengguna adalah melancong.

"Di Kampung Terus ini kita boleh bangunkan perniagaan inap desa, kemudian dedahkan kepada pelancong mengenai industri pertanian sawah tradisional yang kini kian dilupakan," katanya.

Festival Padi Antarabangsa ini merupakan festival padi pertama di Semenanjung dan pelbagai aktiviti tradisional disediakan kepada pengunjung. - Bernama



## Targeted therapies help us, say late-stage patients

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Stage 4 cancer patients say they are deprived of targeted therapies in government hospitals due to limited public funds.

They want the Government to make the treatment available to patients like them, which could prolong their lives, and not just provide palliative care.

Cancer patient Jess Lau, 55, said she was terribly upset when doctors at a government hospital and a university hospital did not want to treat her spine.

She said the oncologist at the university hospital told her: "Just take morphine. Soon, you will be in a wheelchair. You kept changing doctors? Are you afraid to die?"

The mother of three then went to a private hospital and the doctor put her through a PET Scan and she later underwent intensity modulated radiation therapy (advanced mode of high precision radiotherapy) in 2015 to stop cancer growth in the backbone.

When she could no longer walk due to nerve damage and the doctors in a government hospital would

not administer further treatment for her, she returned to her private oncologist and was put on a six-cycle chemotherapy (eribulin) which costs RM40,000.

She said she had exhausted most of her Employees Provident Fund.

"The Government should provide these targeted therapies because patients could live for many more years," she said, adding that many patients in developed countries survived Stage 4 cancer for a longer time due to available treatments.

Lau noted that one of her friends had survived Stage 4 breast cancer for eight years following targeted therapies costing RM1.6mil in total.

With the treatment, besides prolonging her life for four years already, Lau said she had avoided a backbone or hip fracture.

"I am able to walk and do house work.

"I want to see my youngest son graduate," said Lau, who was first diagnosed with Stage 1 cancer in 2000.

A government worker in her 50s, who declined to be named, said she

initially received targeted therapy treatment at a university hospital after she was diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer in 2008.

Her treatment went well and she went back to teach.

When her cancer returned a few years later and spread to her liver, she sought treatment in a university hospital or the National Cancer Institute (IKN) but was told that it was given only to first timers and younger patients.

She then went to a private hospital for a second opinion and was put on an 18-cycle chemotherapy with paclitaxol and targeted drug trastuzumab, and the tumours in the liver cleared.

Later, her oncologist suggested she try a new targeted drug, trastuzumab emtansine, which cost RM18,000 per cycle, as a preventive measure.

She was fortunate that she was offered a compassionate package for her treatment if she paid the first three cycles of it.

Despite doctors giving her three months to live, the HER2-positive patient has survived for four years

since being diagnosed at Stage 4 cancer following the treatments she received. HER2 patients have aggressive cancer cells.

"My results have been amazing," she added.

"I know of a few friends treated in government hospitals who passed on within two years without further treatment and those in private hospitals still living an active life after metastasis, like me, because we received treatment," she said.

Asked about late-stage cancer patients' request for targeted therapies, Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye said the ministry will explore the possibility of bringing in generics to lower prices.

He promised to look into getting the generic version of trastuzumab for women with breast cancers who need the targeted therapy after Pink Ribbon Wellness (L) Foundation founder and chairman Datuk Dr M. Devanand urged him about it.

The treatment costs RM130,000 with the originator medication but the generic is half the cost.

### Having a rice day

Children catching fish in a rice field while older folk complete a buffalo made of dried rice stalks at the Penang International Rice Festival, which was officiated by Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik in Kampung Terus near Bukit Mertajam.

