

## ANCAMAN BIOTERORISME TERHADAP KESIHATAN AWAM DAN SEKURITI DI MALAYSIA: SATU KAJIAN SOSIO PERUNDANGAN

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### Abstrak

Malaysia masih tidak mempunyai pengalaman meluas dalam menghadapi ancaman bioterorisme seperti yang di alami oleh Amerika Syarikat selepas peristiwa pada 11 September 2001. Tetapi Malaysia, pernah mengalami penyebaran penyakit berjangkit seperti serangan virus Nipah, SARS dan H1N1 yang berpotensi mencetuskan situasi bioterorisme. Pengetahuan dan kefahaman yang mencukupi berkaitan bioterorisme di kalangan orang awam sangat penting dalam usaha mengenal pasti, mencegah, mengawal, menghadapi dan menangani masalah penyebaran penyakit berjangkit yang boleh menimbulkan ancaman bersifat biologi. Di peringkat global organisasi Antarabangsa seperti *World Health Organization* (WHO), *International Health Regulations* (IHR) dan *Center for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC) berperanan besar dalam menyebarkan informasi berkenaan pelbagai penyakit berjangkit yang muncul, menyediakan fasiliti dan menjadi pusat rujukan kepada negara anggota dalam organisasi ini. Konvensyen Antarabangsa seperti *Biological Weapons Convention* (BWC) dan perundangan luar negara turut menjadi rujukan oleh organisasi di Malaysia seperti Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia, Jabatan Veterinar, Institut Penyelidikan Sains dan Teknologi Pertahanan (STRIDE), Pusat Serantau Asia Tenggara Bagi Mencegah Keganasan (SEARCCT), Pusat Penyelidikan dan Pendidikan Penyakit Berjangkit Tropika (TIDREC) dan Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN). Malaysia memiliki satu Akta khusus yang meliputi peruntukan berkaitan penyakit berjangkit iaitu Akta Pencegahan dan Pengawasan Penyakit Berjangkit 1988 di ikuti oleh Akta terkini dikenali sebagai Akta Perdagangan Strategik 2010 yang membincangkan mengenai agen biologi, senjata biologi dan senjata pemusnah besar-besaran di peringkat perdagangan Antarabangsa. Kajian ini merangkumi beberapa perkara utama yang melibatkan kefahaman masyarakat sosial berkenaan bioterorisme, perundangan berkaitannya dan pengurusan serta perlaksanaan usaha-usaha oleh organisasi berkenaan dalam memerangi bioterorisme. Metodologi sosial perundangan bersifat kualitatif deskriptif dan analisis digunakan bagi merungkai permasalahan bioterrorisme dan perlindungan kesihatan awam di Malaysia. Kaedah kerja lapangan digunakan untuk menemuramah pakar dalam bidang kesihatan awam dan sekuriti negara di beberapa organisasi. Satu set soalan panduan digunakan bagi mencungkil data primer yang eksklusif dan sulit. Penemuan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa 'bioterrorisme' merupakan suatu ancaman yang memerlukan kepada perancangan awal dengan memberi kesedaran, penyebaran informasi dan penyediaan kaedah yang bersesuaian bagi melindungi dan mencegah ancaman bioterorisme. Jalinan kerjasama di peringkat Antarabangsa membolehkan negara sentiasa terkehadapan kerana berupaya untuk mendapatkan pelbagai informasi baru dan bantuan global dengan pantas apabila berlakunya ancaman. Ketiadaan perundangan yang khusus berkaitan bioterorisme menjadi suatu kekurangan dan kepincangan dalam usaha melindungi orang awam. Oleh itu, usaha perlu diambil oleh kerajaan untuk menjamin kesihatan awam daripada segala bentuk ancaman bioterorism yang bersifat global.

# **BIOTERRORISM THREATS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SECURITY IN MALAYSIA: A SOCIO LEGAL STUDY**

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## **Abstract**

Malaysia does not have extensive experience in dealing with bioterrorism threats such as experienced by United States after the incident of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001. However, Malaysia did experience the spread of infectious diseases such as Nipah virus attacks, SARS and H1N1 that may trigger potential bioterrorism situation. Sufficient knowledge and understanding on bioterrorism among the public is very vital in order to identify, prevent, control, cope and to deal with the spread of infectious diseases that could pose a threat of biological nature. Globally, international organizations such as World Health Organization (WHO), International Health Regulations (IHR) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been instrumental in disseminating information on emerging infectious diseases, furnishing facilities and becomes a resource center for the members of these organizations. International conventions such as the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and other countries' legislations are also being referred to by Malaysia organizations such as the Ministry of Health (MOH), Veterinary Department, Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Tropical Infectious Diseases Research and Education Center (TIDREC) and National Security Council (NSC). Malaysia has a specific Act that incorporates provisions on infectious diseases that is the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 and subsequently followed by the present Act known as the Strategic Trade Act, 2010 which discusses about biological agents, biological weapons and weapons of mass destruction at the international trade level. This study covers some fundamental matters that deal with the social community understanding about bioterrorism, related legislations and management, as well as implementation efforts made by the relevant organizations to counter against bioterrorism. Social Legal methodological qualitative descriptive and analytical approach is applied to draw on the bioterrorism problems and health protection in Malaysia. Fieldwork method is used to interview experts in the field of public health and national security in various organizations. A set of questions guide is use to elicit exclusive and confidential primary data. Findings of this study shows that 'bioterrorism' is a threat that needs prior planning to create awareness, to provide information dissemination and to prepare appropriate methods to protect and prevent from bioterrorism. International networking allows the state to always be ahead and able to obtain various range of new information and immediate global aid whenever threat occurs. The absence of specific legislation in relation to bioterrorism will be of detriments and limitations in the efforts to protect the public. Therefore, the government should take the efforts to secure public health from any forms of global bioterrorism threats.