

Labuan tertiary students return home beginning today

Published on: Saturday, May 02, 2020

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LABUAN: The first batch of 47 students from Labuan Matriculation College (LMC) have returned to their hometowns in Limbang and Lawas in Sarawak beginning today via the Labuan International Ferry Terminal.

They arrived at the terminal around 8 am by two coach buses and immediately underwent temperature checks before boarding a charter ferry for the two-hour journey to Limbang.

The 47 students were among the 2,341 LMC students who have undergone random swab tests and health screenings on April 29 before they are allowed to return to their hometowns in Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular in stages until next week. All the 47 students will be undergoing quarantine at the Purnama Hotel upon arrival in Limbang today.

Labuan Natural Disaster Management Committee chairman Dr Fary Akmal Osman said the second batch comprise students from University Malaysia Sabah Labuan International Campus (UMSKAL), LMC and Industrial Training Institute (ITI), whose hometowns are located in various parts of Sabah.

They are set to return on Monday and Tuesday by hired coach buses using roll-on-roll-off ferries.

"We need to get the list of students who live in the same destinations or nearby, and we will accommodate them in one bus and travel the same day, so as we can save cost

and time," she told reporters before witnessing the departure of the students at the ferry terminal.

She said more than 40 students from Labuan currently studying in University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) would return to the island on May 13, while the number of students who are still stranded in Peninsular is yet to be ascertained.

"Upon arrival here, all the students will be screened and those who show symptoms of fever, flu, shortness of breath, sore throats, and coughing will be quarantined at the quarantine centres and those with no symptoms might be asked to be home-quarantined," Dr Fary said.