



## JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR

*Department Of Veterinary Services*

Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan

Wisma Tani, Blok Podium Lot 4G1 & 4G2

No. 28 Persiaran Perdana, Presint 4

62630 PUTRAJAYA

MALAYSIA

Tel : 603-8870 2000

Faks : 603-8888 6021

E-mel : [pro@dvs.gov.my](mailto:pro@dvs.gov.my)

Laman Web : [www.dvs.gov.my](http://www.dvs.gov.my)

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **“SUPERBUG RISK GROWS AT FARMS” AND “SUPERBUGS FOUND AT FARM”**

1. The Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) refers to the articles “Superbug risk grows at farms” and “Superbugs found at farm” published on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 by The Star. The Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) would like to provide feedback regarding several inaccurate matters in the news report.
2. **DVS wishes to clarify that while antimicrobial resistance in food-producing animals is a recognised and actively monitored issue, animal-based food products in Malaysia remain safe for consumption.** This assurance is supported by robust and long-standing control measures, including mandatory veterinary inspection at slaughter and annual monitoring under the National Food Safety Monitoring Programme for veterinary drug residues. Food safety oversight is further strengthened through the Ministry of Health under the Food Act 1983 and Food Regulations 1985.
3. AMR surveillance findings reported by DVS are derived from targeted national monitoring programmes and are intended to detect trends over time. Observed increases involve specific bacteria–antibiotic combinations and should be interpreted within their epidemiological and surveillance context. These findings do not indicate compromised food safety nor uncontrolled public health risk. In addition, the findings data (antibiotic resistance rates of *E. coli* and *Salmonella*



spp. isolated from livestock in 2024) presented in the article **is not sourced from the DVS.**

4. DVS also emphasises that antimicrobial resistance is a multifactorial issue, influenced by disease dynamics, biosecurity standards, animal husbandry practices, and environmental pathways. It should not be attributed solely to farm-level antimicrobial use. Malaysia has, since 2012, implemented a policy prohibiting the use of critically important antimicrobials for growth promotion and prophylactic purposes in the animal health sector as part of sustained national AMR control efforts.
5. DVS continues to address antimicrobial resistance through the Malaysian Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (MyAP-AMR) under a One Health approach, coordinated by the National Antimicrobial Resistance Committee (NARC), involving the human health, animal health, food safety, and environmental sectors.
6. The Department remains committed to transparent, science-based communication and encourages the public to rely on verified information from official sources. DVS will continue to strengthen surveillance, promote responsible antimicrobial use, and work with all stakeholders to safeguard animal health, public health, and food safety in Malaysia.
7. Antimicrobial resistance is a recognised and monitored issue, but **Malaysians can be assured that our animal-based food products remain safe. Malaysia has strong veterinary inspection, residue monitoring, and long-standing controls on antibiotic use in livestock.** AMR must be understood scientifically and addressed collectively under the One Health approach, not through fear-based interpretations