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Back from South Korea: The 'KD Lekiu' crew arriving at Sepanggar naval base.

'KD Lekiu' crew screened

179 members tested for Covid-19 upon return from South Korea

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KOTA KINABALU: The 179 crew members of Royal Malaysian Navy's *KD Lekiu* were screened and had their samples taken for Covid-19 tests upon arrival at the Sepanggar naval base.

Some 10 medical officers and 70 paramedics from the army, as well as four doctors and 12 paramedics from Health Ministry, were on hand to screen the crew members who just returned from South Korea.

"The 25 officers and 154 crew of various ranks were checked based on the ministry's guidelines.

"The first level were questions on Covid-19 symptoms and taking their body temperatures, followed by obtaining oropharynx (the part of the throat at the back of the mouth behind the oral cavity) samples from everyone in the group.

"The samples will be sent to the district public health laboratory in stages and results of tests are expected to be completed within six to 12 hours," the Sepanggar naval base said in a statement yesterday.

Those whose tests are positive will be



referred to infectious disease experts for further treatment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital while those whose screenings are negative will be allowed to continue to sail back to the Lumut naval base.

"Upon arrival at the Lumut base, they will undergo a second screening and be isolated for 14 days," the statement said.

The navy previously issued a statement saying that the *KD Lekiu* team would be screened for the virus when the vessel docked here.

The vessel had earlier left Kota Kinabalu on Feb 5 and arrived in Busan on Feb 12 to escort Petronas Floating Liquefied Natural Gas 2 tanker back to Sabah waters. It left Busan on Feb 18 and stopped here to refuel and replenish supplies, before making its return to the Lumut naval base in Perak.