



## **UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

### **SPEECH TEXT**

**YAB TAN SRI DATO 'HAJI MUHYIDDIN BIN HAJI MOHD YASSIN  
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA**

### **NATIONAL RECOVERY PLAN: MCO PHASE TRANSITION IN STAGES**

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,*

*Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Salam Sejahtera,*

How is everyone? I hope you are all able to continue living your daily lives in peace and prosperity.

1. On 28 May, the Government decided to implement the Movement Control Order (MCO) nationwide from 1 June to 14 June 2021 which has been extended for another two weeks until 28 June 2021.
2. The full MCO for Phase One was implemented after taking into account the prevalence of COVID-19 cases in the community, the existence of more virulent new variants with high infection rates that threaten the capacity of our country's public healthcare system.
3. In addition, the National COVID-19 Immunization Program (PICK) is still in the early stages of its implementation in addition to the supply of vaccines which is expected to be more stable starting this June.



4. The decision to implement this full MCO has succeeded in avoiding the occurrence of a sudden increase in new cases or an exponential surge of new cases. The Malaysian Ministry of Health has made a projection that if the MCO was not implemented, the number of daily COVID-19 cases in our country would reach more than 13,000 cases today and our entire healthcare system would collapse.

5. However, *Alhamdulillah*, with the implementation of this Phase One MCO we can see that the COVID-19 infection graph has started to show a sloping trend with 4,949 cases yesterday compared to 9,020 cases on 29 May 2021, which is the highest daily number of cases recorded in our country. Our national healthcare system is also still able to accommodate new cases as well as record a high number of patients recovering. This shows that the action taken by the government has come to fruition. *We have avoided a catastrophe.*

*Saudara dan saudari yang saya kasihi sekalian,*

6. The decision to implement this MCO is not an easy one. In terms of the economy, our country is losing RM1 billion a day during the currently implemented MCO. I announced the PEMERKASA Plus economic stimulus and financial assistance package worth RM40 billion with a fiscal injection of RM5 billion. I hope the assistance from this government can ease the burden borne by affected individuals and businesses.

7. However, we cannot continue like this. For the health and survival of everyone, we need to get out of this crisis immediately.

8. Today, I would like to announce the National Recovery Plan which is a phased exit strategy from the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

9. The Government has drawn up this plan with the best possible consideration to ensure that every decision taken is to protect lives and ensure livelihood.



10. It also takes into account the threat of COVID-19 that remains in the community and the high number of active cases in hospitals.

11. This plan is a carefully designed guide based on data and science to enable us all to return to a normal daily life or back to normalcy.

12. In addition, an increase in the supply of vaccines of 16 million doses at the end of July as well as an increase in the rate of daily vaccinations makes us more confident in the success of the National Recovery Plan.

13. This situation is very different from the situation more than a year ago when we implemented the MCO for the first time when we still did not have a vaccine. The only way out at the time was a lockdown and public health methods to break the chain of infection. It was a very painful situation because continuous lockdowns badly affected our livelihoods and yet we did not know exactly when and how we are able to get out of the woods.

14. Yet today, with the arrival of a greater supply of vaccines and an increasingly vigorous implementation of the vaccination process, we have been able to see a brighter light at the end of the tunnel. At the start of the National COVID-19 Immunization Program, the vaccination rate was around 5 thousand to 8 thousand doses per day and has increased to 50 thousand to 80 thousand around May. Even yesterday, the vaccination rate had reached 197,963 doses and I am confident this effort will continue to be increased to over 300,000 doses a day in the coming months.

15. Not only have we successfully vaccinated almost all frontliners, but over 50 percent of those aged 60 and over have received their first dose, and we will continue to prioritize other COVID-19 susceptible groups such as those with comorbidities, and

next, those aged 18 and over. Recently, the government is studying vaccination of our children aged 12 to 17 years.

16. Indeed, the positive development of this daily vaccination rate gives confidence to the Government that the National Recovery Plan can be a collective success. This is because, the more people are protected by vaccinations, the more movement control measures can be relaxed, the more economic and social sectors can be opened up, and we can begin to move regularly and safely to pre-pandemic living norms, *insya-Allah*.

17. With the increasing vaccination rate and public health action still ongoing, I believe the number of daily COVID-19 cases will continue to decline. The experience of other countries that have increased vaccination rates in their respective countries has also shown a significant decrease in new daily cases. This will definitely make it easier for us to implement a comprehensive national recovery plan.

18. The National Recovery Plan strategy consists of four phases and will involve planned phase transitions of the MCO in stages. Each phase of this recovery plan is based on data based on three main indicators or thresholds to move from one phase to the next.

The First Indicator is the state of COVID-19 transmission in the community based on the number of daily infection cases;

The Second Indicator is the capacity of the public healthcare system based on the bed usage rate in the ICU Wards; and

The Third Indicator is the level of the population inoculated based on the percentage that has fully received two vaccine doses.

19. This phased approach begins with Phase One which is the implementation of the Full MCO which is being implemented now in a situation where the number of COVID-19 cases is high, the public health system is at a critical level and the vaccination achievement rate is still low.

20. The Government will consider a transition from the first phase to the second phase of the PKP after:

- The average number of COVID-19 daily cases decreases below 4,000;
- The public healthcare system is no longer at a critical stage and the bed usage rate in ICUs recover to moderate levels; and
- 10 percent of the population has received 2 doses of vaccine.

21. The Second Phase is a continuation of the First Phase with continued tight control over social activities and movement. During Phase Two:

- Economic activities will be opened up in stages by allowing up to 80% employee capacity on the premises;
- The positive list approach is continued i.e. only listed sectors will be allowed to operate while unlisted ones will still be closed. The positive list from Phase 1 will also be expanded during Phase 2 by adding several sectors; and
- Social and inter-state activities will still not be allowed.

22. The addition of sectors to the positive list during Phase 2 includes manufacturing activities such as cement to ensure continuity of permitted construction works as well as retail activities such as electronics and computers to support those working from home. During Phase 2, with a positive list approach, there were still be

manufacturing, construction, retail and service activities which will remain unlisted and non-operational such as textile manufacturing and furniture stores.

23. Phase Three involves the transition from a positive list to a negative list approach i.e. where all economic activities are allowed to operate except activities that are at high risk for COVID-19 infections which will remain closed.

24. We can move on to the Third Phase if we manage to reach the following indicators or thresholds, namely:

- The average number of COVID-19 daily cases drops to below 2 thousand;
- The public healthcare system is at a comfortable level with a reduction of bed usage rate in ICUs to an adequate level; and
- 40 percent of the country's population has received two doses of vaccine.

25. This threshold value is expected to be reached, at the earliest, by the end of August 2021.

26. During this Third Phase:

- All sectors of the economy will be allowed to operate except for activities on the negative list, i.e. activities that are at high risk of causing COVID-19 infections or involving crowds;
- The economic sector will remain allowed to operate at 80% capacity as per Phase Two; and

- Social activities including education and certain sports can begin to open up in stages.

27. For Phase 3, all manufacturing activities will be allowed to operate subject to SOPs and capacity limits. The Phase 3 negative list that is not allowed to operate refers to high-risk activities because it involves crowds such as organizing conventions and where social distancing cannot be practiced such as pubs, spas and beauty salons. Relaxation of capacity limits will be considered to allow the company to fully operate once its employees have been vaccinated.

28. I would like to give a commitment that Parliamentary Sessions can be held during this Phase, which is around September or October, in accordance with strict SOPs. This has been my position from the beginning that the system of Parliamentary Democracy can function again at the appropriate time, that is, once COVID-19 cases are under control and we have almost achieved herd immunity. I will continue to uphold the principles of Parliamentary Democracy and Constitutional Monarchy. There should be no parties who deliberately cause unrest and confusion among the people so as to interfere with the main task of the Government to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

29. From the Third Phase, we will be able to move on to the Fourth Phase if we manage to reach the following threshold values, namely:

- The average number of COVID-19 daily cases drops to below 500 cases;
- The public healthcare system is at a safe level, and the bed usage rate in ICUs is at an adequate level; and
- 60 percent of the country's population has received two doses of vaccine.



30. Based on the projected implementation of the National COVID-19 Immunization Program, this transition is expected to be implemented as early as the end of October 2021.

31. The Fourth Phase is the last phase of the National Recovery Plan when we can, as much as possible, return to the norms of daily life. All economic sectors will be opened, more social activities will be allowed, inter-state travel will be allowed and domestic tourism will also be opened, subject to strict SOPs.

32. This phase can be implemented when the number of COVID-19 cases is low, the public healthcare system is at a safe level and the vaccination program has reached herd immunity level, by the end of this year.

33. This plan is also a dynamic plan whereby if we succeed in any of the three key indicators in any phase, the Government can immediately decide to move on to the next Phase.

34. All SOPs for the phases I mentioned earlier will be detailed by the National Security Council (NSC) and announced in the near future.

*Saudara dan saudari yang saya kasihi sekalian,*

35. I often receive requests for sporting events such as football matches with spectators in the stadium to be allowed, social functions to be held and the most I receive is an appeal to return to hometowns to visit parents, relatives and beloved family members. Be patient. At the moment these remain as things we cannot do. We must prioritize efforts to break the chain of COVID-19 infections first.

36. *Insyallah*, once we have achieved herd immunity in the Fourth Phase, we can do these things in stages with adherence to strict SOPs. Our success in achieving



herd immunity depends on how many people in this country can receive the vaccine.

37. *Alhamdulillah*, so far more than 4.5 million doses have been successfully given to Malaysians of which 3.2 million have received the first dose and 1.4 million have fully received two doses of vaccine. *Insya-Allah* after this, more people will get a vaccination appointment and have the opportunity to receive their first dose after more vaccine supplies are received starting this month.

38. For those who have not yet registered to get vaccinated, do so immediately on the MySejahtera application. To date, the number of those who have registered is 13.8 million. Our target is to ensure that at least 26 million people in Malaysia are vaccinated by the end of this year to achieve herd immunity.

39. Meanwhile, we must continue to be patient and disciplined. Practise higher levels of self-discipline even after being vaccinated. Wear face masks in public, avoid crowded places, wash your hands often and make sure you are always in a well-ventilated space. The more we exercise self-discipline by complying to the SOPs and get ourselves vaccinated, the faster the number of daily COVID-19 cases will reduce, the more of us will be vaccinated, *insya-Allah* the sooner we achieve herd immunity and with *Allah s.w.t's* permission we will be able to get out of this crisis we are facing together. The more we exercise self-discipline by complying to the SOPs and get ourselves vaccinated, the sooner we can get out of this crisis.

40. I understand that many of you are feeling upset, scared and are badly affected by this pandemic both physically and emotionally. Some of you have lost loved ones, have diminished sources of income and are shrouded in prolonged anxiety. But we must never give up. We must continue to fight, united in will and energy in making this National Recovery Plan a success, together as a courageous and strong-hearted Malaysian nation. I promise the government will continue to help as much as it can,



relentless in its efforts, so that together we can get out of this pandemic crisis as soon as possible.

41. We owe it to Malaysia, to fight the threats that this pandemic poses to our collective future together. We must remain steadfast and resolute in our commitment to fight and win this war on COVID-19. We must never waver, and defeat is just simply not an option. It is my sincere hope that this National Recovery Plan will guide us cautiously, but progressively towards reclaiming our much treasured freedoms while doing all we can to protect the lives and livelihoods of Malaysians. I am cautiously optimistic that with proper planning, execution and support from all Malaysians, we can emerge victorious and stronger from this crisis.

42. Ultimately, the greatest lesson that COVID-19 can teach humanity is that we are all in this together. We are a strong nation and people who have proven our mettle in overcoming all past crises that have befallen us. We have a collective responsibility to each other and to our families and friends.

43. Finally, to *Allah* we seek help and He is the best protector.

Staysafe

Protect Yourself, Protect Everyone

*Teguh Kita, Menang Bersama*

*Wabillahi al-taufik walhidayah wassalamu'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh.*

**DISCLAIMER: This unofficial translation is based on the original document which is written in the Malay language. Should there be any inconsistency or difference between this translation and the original document, kindly note that the original document is the governing and prevailing version.**