



UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

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

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Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamuálaikum wa rahmatullahi wabarakatuh and warm greetings to all.

How is everyone? I hope you are all in good health.

Today, 17 Ramadan, is the day Muslims celebrate Nuzul the Quran, which is the day when the Quran was passed down to mankind. So, at the beginning of my speech, I wanted to convey my celebratory wishes for Nuzul al-Quran to all Muslims. Hopefully Nuzul al-Quran today reminds us to always use the Quran as a guide in life. I also pray for the Muslims in this country that we may practice the solemnity of fasting perfectly.

Today, I would like to inform all of you on the latest developments in the implementation of the Conditional Movement Control Order or CMCO which started on May 4. Alhamdulillah, I see the implementation of the CMCO has been going smoothly and in an organized manner. There has not been any unexpected traffic or congestion at public transport stations, in the LRT, MRT, busses, restaurants among others. It seems like we have even compliance of SOPs set.

The economic sectors have also begun to open. Those who were stranded in their hometown or elsewhere have begun to return to their respective homes. University students who were stranded on campus too have returned to their families. Thank God.

Many among you have also started working again. To date, an estimated 6.64 million or 43.6 percent of the workforce have returned to work. I expect this number to increase over the next few weeks.

God willing, with the increase in number of workers returning to work in various sectors of industry and business, economic activity in our country can be re-mobilized. Those who work will get paid. Those in trade operations will earn their income and make profits. Cumulatively, this income can be spent on our economic system and finally, fuel the country's economic growth.



I want to thank the state governments which provided cooperation to the federal government in efforts to reopen their respective economic sectors.

I'm also grateful that the new cases of COVID 19 remain low and under control. The recovery rate is also high. As of May 9, 4,929 or 74.8 percent of patients have recovered. I want thank all the doctors, nurses and healthcare workers that have assisted in caring for all patients until they have fully recovered.

I also want to share some good news with all of you. In a study done by a research agency based in Singapore, Malaysia ranked fourth out of 105 countries in terms of people's satisfaction with their government's efforts in dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak.

So, once again I want to thank and congratulate all of our frontline personnel who have sacrificed so much over the course of two to three months to ensure all Malaysians are safe from the COVID-19 outbreak. I would like to express my thanks to all Malaysians from Perlis to Sabah who have been disciplined to obey the instructions of the MCO and the CMCO to make it easier for our frontline staff to handle this crisis.

The result of the earnest efforts of the front-line staff and the discipline of our people throughout the MCO and the CMCO implementation, we have succeeded in making almost the entire region or zone in our country *green*. These areas have not registered any new COVID 19 positive cases in the last two weeks.

Of the 1,178 inhabitants, divisions, zones, sub-zones and precincts throughout the nation, 1,112 or 94.4 percent were categorized as green, while 62 or 5.2 percent are classified as yellow and only 4 or 0.34 percent are still in red. The red status references areas that have recorded more than 40 positive COVID-19 cases.

For your information, there are 4 areas so far, that are still considered red zones:

Mukim Batu, Gombak, Selangor;
Zon Batu, Mukim Batu, Kuala Lumpur;
Zon Kampung Baharu, Mukim Bandar, Kuala Lumpur; dan
Mukim Pedas, Daerah Rembau, Negeri Sembilan

For the residents of these areas, I would advise them to be more careful when you leave the house. Practice social distancing. Cover your mouth and nose with facemasks. Always wash your hands. If possible reduce outdoor activities.

For people outside this area, my first advice is to refrain from visiting this area. It's better that we do not expose ourselves to risks of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Second, for the people in the green zones, do not assume all of you are safe and can move around freely. You may think you will not be infected due to being in a green area. However,



I want to remind you that the COVID 19 virus is a silent enemy which we do not see. It can attack us anytime and anywhere.

So, be careful. Social distancing, wearing a mask to cover your nose and mouth, and hand washing should continue until we successfully find a vaccine for this virus.

According to medical experts, the process to produce a vaccine usually takes a long time between 12 and 18 months. I have been in contact with several foreign leaders and have been informed that clinical trials are being carried out to produce a vaccine for this virus. I hope the vaccine can be produced as soon as possible so that we can be free from the threat of COVID-19 as soon as possible.

My dear brothers and sisters,

Although we have achieved many positive developments in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, our efforts have not been fully successful yet. Steps still need to be taken to combat it this outbreak. In terms of public opinion, I also find the average person wants the government to continue to take reasonable steps to fight this pandemic.

Therefore, on the advice of the Ministry of Health and the National Security Council, I want to announce the Conditional Movement Control Order or CMCO which was effective until May 12 2020, will be extended until June 9, 2020, for a period of 4 weeks again. This means that all rules and SOPs implemented during the current CMCO period will remain effective until June 9, 2020. Any changes to the rules, SOP or a list of sectors that are allowed to operate will be notified in a timely manner.

During this time, there are some major festivals that will usually be involves the movement of the people, the Hari Raya Aidilfitri, the Festival Kaamatan and Gawai Day. So I want to remind everyone about the prohibition of inter-state movement which is still enforced during this period. That means, I do apologise, I beg you for the sake of the safety and health of all of us, travels to return to your hometown across the state border for public holidays are not allowed.

I know many people are sad that they are unable to return for the holidays in their hometowns and be with their family. Be patient. When things recover, you can go back to your hometown to visit your parents and relatives.

TV and Radio stations can play "*Dendang Perantau*" once in a while. Playing it too often gives me a sense of longing too. Feel free to play Hari Raya songs that can brighten the mood. I saw on YouTube, there is a song called "*Jange Kelik La Wei*". Even that song is OK.

But this doesn't mean we can't celebrate Aidilfitri, Kaamatan Festival or Gawai Day. Visiting amongst neighbours and close relatives within the same state is allowed so long as the



maximum limit is kept within 20 people at a time. So, it's not necessary to have a big feast or an open house.

Every family should adhere to the health SOPs such as social distancing, covering your mouth and nose by wearing facemasks, and maintaining good personal hygiene practices such as the use of hand sanitizer throughout the festive season. Keep the house clean, wash dishes, spoon forks, pots, etc. after being used by dining guests present.

The Ministry of Health also recommends that your relatives avoid being in a crowded place, confined area or a closed area. If you are chatting with any guests, just maintain a little distance between yourselves. It is not necessary to sit too close.

As with prayers and the congregation at the mosque, including Friday prayers, the Malaysian Department of Islamic Developments is refining the procedures or SOPs specific to things that the congregation can practice. God willing, after the SOP is finalized and presented to His Majesty the King as His Majesty the King is the leader of the Federal and State Islamic Religion, the government will announce the right way to pray as a congregation in the mosque.

I know many Muslims miss going to the mosque, especially for Friday prayers, *solat tarawih*, and *solat lima waktu*. God willing, we pray that things will get better. Furthermore there have been many green areas across the country. With the implementation of SOPs set, I believe the mosques in these areas are ready to be opened to members of the religious authorities. Give them some time to refine the relevant SOP. God willing, in the near future we can perform our worship more fully and Islamic law will shine again.

The same is true of churches and houses of worship for other religions, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs and others. The government will announce certain SOPs to enable our non-Muslims friends to worship at their respective places of worship.

About cross-border travel, I was told there was a couple living apart for work. For example, a husband works in Perlis, wife in Johor. Due to cross-border travel restrictions, there are husbands who have not seen their children and wives for two months. So, I want to announce that we give flexibility for couples to travel across state borders for the purpose of being with their family. For those involving cross-border travel of Sabah and Sarawak, I hope the Sabah and Sarawak governments give you the same flexibility. Applications can be made through the app Gerak Malaysia or through the nearest police station

On the issue of National Aid and Relief - *Prihatin payments*, I heard there are complaints from the public who failed to receive this payment for a variety of reasons. This is because the information received is not complete. There are also cases where their application was rejected because the record shows income exceeds eligibility requirements. But they actually have lost jobs and lost means of earning income. There are also those who applied who are students who have received BPN assistance for the student category. So, their application for the relief payment under the single's category was rejected.



These are some of the reasons why the application was rejected. Taking this into consideration, the Minister of Finance has agreed to extend appeal period for BPN application until May 31, 2020.

In addition to sending emails, applicants who have been rejected, can go to the IRB counters for appeals starting Monday, May 11, 2020. For the states that observe tomorrow's holiday, you may go to the IRB counter on Tuesday, May 12 2020. I do not promise that all appeals will be approved. But whatever appeals are reasonable, God willing, it will be approved.

I also want to tell you that yesterday the government approved 2.3 million BPN applications, including new applications and appeals, which involves a total expenditure of RM1.7 billion. From these approvals, the total number of recipients of BPN so far is 10.6 million which involves payments totaling RM11 billion.

My dear brothers and sisters,

We have tried our best to fight the epidemic COVID 19. Our efforts have shown signs of success.

But I would advise you not to assume victory yet. We're still here early stages of implementation of the CMCO. With the amount of people starting to leave home for work increasing, the risk of infectious spread will increase simultaneously.

So, the next few weeks are quite critical for us. Results of the implementation of the CMCO will only be seen in a few weeks from now. In the event of a significant increase in cases during this period, the government will have to carry out the Enhanced Movement Control Order or EMCO for affected areas.

We want to prevent this from happening. That's why I want to appeal to everyone, to obey the SOP set by the government. It's not difficult. It's simple. Avoid crowded places. Practice social distancing. Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose. Always wash your hands or use hand sanitizer. Also, only leave home if absolutely necessary.

God willing, we pray that we will succeed in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic together.

To all Muslims, I extend my wishes for a safe and solemn fasting month. Also, to all mothers Happy Mother's Day today.

Wabillahi al-taufiq wal hidayah wassalamu 'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh