

UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

YAB TAN SRI DATO' HAJI MUHYIDDIN

BIN HAJI MOHD YASSIN

PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

10 APRIL 2020

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamuálaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh and greetings.

My dear Malaysians,

How are you doing? I wish you all are in good health with the family at home. For those of you who are working, be safe and take good care of your health. Always practice social distancing, keep yourself hydrated and when returning home do not forget to shower first. Only then you are to proceed to family activities.

At the beginning of my speech, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you as Malaysians. You are all great human beings.

Doctors and nurses who are in the forefront, you take risks every time you step into the ward. But you continue to take bold steps to save the lives of others. Although you are tired, you do not complain but continue to serve hard. Thank you so much.

Thanks also to the doctors and nurses at the private hospital. While government hospitals are busy treating COVID 19 patients, private hospitals accept non-COVID 19 patients for treatment.

Thanks also to the police and army who guarded the roadblock. Whether in the sun, or rain, you're still doing your job. Well done.

Also, to members of Immigration, Police, Fire, RELA, local authorities and other agencies that helps out. Thank you.

Thanks also to the generous people who pack food to send to the front-line staff. They do it for free without expecting anything in return. You are all great beings.

The same goes for those of you who work to deliver food. Whether it's grab food, food panda or others. You take the risk. Other's stay at home, you leave the house to make sure others have food to eat. You're doing a noble job. My message is, take care of your health, be safe, drive your motorcycle safely. You all are too great human beings.

In short, we're like a big family. We help each other in times of need. We look after our family. We take care of our neighbours. We take care of our community. Whether we are in the village, in the residential area, in the condo, or in the flat. We take care of us. This is the true value of Malaysian brotherhood regardless of race.

My beloved brothers and sisters,

In light of the current situation, the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO) has helped our health officials control the transmission of COVID-19 to a relatively stable level. According to the projections made by the Ministry of Health Malaysia, the MCO, which has been implemented over the past month, has significantly reduced COVID-19 infection and transmission.

With the efforts made, COVID-19 positive cases are regulated at 7%, below the 10% benchmark set by the World Health Organization or WHO. The rate of death from these outbreaks is also low, which is 1.6% compared to 5.8% worldwide.

So far 1,830 patients have been discharged from the hospital. This means that 43% of COVID-19 patients have recovered. Today, the total number of recovered patients is 220, surpassing the number of new positive cases of 118 cases. The number of new positive cases has also shown a decline over the past few days. If this downward trend continues over the next two weeks, hopefully we will be able to control this COVID-19 outbreak.

However, we cannot afford to take the situation for granted. The outbreak is still in the middle stages and requires ongoing precaution and control. In fact, efforts to prevent the outbreak must be intensified to break the contagious chain. This includes focusing specifically on the target groups identified as the root of the outbreak.

Furthermore, based on the advice of the Ministry of Health Malaysia and medical experts, the government has decided to extend the implementation of the Movement Control Order for two more weeks, from April 15 to April 28, 2020. The extension of this period is intended to provide healthcare workers with the opportunity to combat the spread of COVID-19, as well as to prevent the spread of the epidemic in the community.

This is in line with the WHO's view of advising countries not to abolish movement control orders too early. As it has been the case in some countries, the outbreak has increased once the movement's control orders have been terminated.

What I want to mention here is that we must be prepared to deal with this situation for a relatively longer period of time. It may last for several months, before we can fully determine the outburst of the outbreak by a hundred percent.

Even then our lives may not return to normal. As long as the virus still exist, the practice of social distancing must continue. We must always take care of our hygiene. Avoid any gatherings. Avoid crowded places.

The month of Ramadan is coming soon. We won't be able to go to the Ramadan bazaar to buy our food to break our fast, nor go to the mosque for prayers. So, pray with your family. Maybe we won't even be able to return to our village for the celebration as usual.

While it's hard to imagine this, this is the reality and we must face it.

I have also read parents' comments on Facebook. Many have requested for the closure school resumed. Parent is concerned about their children's safety. I too have a granddaughter who is also in school. Like you I am worried as well. Everyone loves their kids and even more their grandchildren.

So, the school may not be reopened early. We might put off the school session until we were really sure the outbreak is controlled.

Meanwhile, our children will be learning from home. I have asked the Ministry Education to implement home-based learning initiatives throughout the duration of this movement control order, and to continue until the school opens.

Although the situation in our country, insyaAllah shall improve, with the steps being taken, we must remember that it is not just our country that affected with this outbreak. The whole world is affected including our neighbouring countries

I want to emphasis, that along the borders of our country there are many entry points, where Illegal immigrants usually come through. If we do not improve our control in illegal immigrants, they will be carriers of the virus into our country. Na'uzubillah.

So, I have directed the Chief of Police, Commander of the Armed Forces, Chief Director of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, Immigration, RELA and others relevant agencies to tighten controls along the country's borders.

In short, our lives for the coming months or years may not return to the usual normal. We are going to live the life of "the new normal" or new habits. What we used to do; we can't do anymore.

A Simple example, shake hands. Shaking hands when you meet is a common thing. If it's not made it looks awkward, or even considered not civilized. But now it's different. We can't shake hands when we meet to prevent virus infection. Maybe we should just bow down as a sign of respect. This will be "the new normal," or a new habit.

The same is true of things such as we are not used hand washing frequently. Now and in coming future we must get used to the habit of washing our hands more often. Use soap, hand sanitizer and so on. Also wear a face mask.

There are many other examples that I need not mention because I think we understand the meaning of new habits that we must practice in our daily life in coming days.

My dear brothers and sisters,

I understand that the economy of our country is affected by restrictions on corporate, manufacturing and business activities throughout the MCO period is in force. The government has agreed for several selected sectors of the economy to be re-opened in stages with guidelines on health and restricted movement control.

A special cabinet committee chaired by the Senior Minister International Trade and Industry and Senior Minister of Defense is created to examine the list of selected economic sectors to open in stages.

I want to emphasize that the opening of some of these restricted sectors does not means that we have loosen the movement control order. MCO command is still in order and all instructions issued by the authority must be obeyed. If there is an operator, factory or company that violates the rules, the government will retract the approval given. The list of these sectors will be announced by the government in the near future.

My dear brothers and sisters,

As Prime Minister, it is my responsibility to protect your life. Every life is precious. Whether it is of a baby, young person, adults or senior citizens, all life is precious. Losing one life to this virus, does not only mean losing a husband, wife, children or immediate family member but also a great loss to the country.

Therefore, let us take care of ourselves, our families and together the people around us by obeying the commands of movement control order.

Let me remind you that the war on COVID-19 is not yet over. The fight is still on. We are doing well so far, so just uplift your spirit and continue to fight. If we persevere, inshaAllah we will win.

I am fortunate that all of you are disciplined and law-abiding citizen. The level of MCO compliance in our country is high and this shows that Malaysians understand the importance of taking care of their health and safety.

Keep up this praiseworthy attitude. Keep striving, praying and trusting. InsyaAllah we will successfully pass this test together. To Allah we surrender.

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