



UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**YAB TAN SRI DATO' HAJI MUHYIDDIN
BIN HAJI MOHD YASSIN**

PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamu'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh and greetings to all.

How is everyone doing? I hope you are all healthy. First of all, I would like to wish all employees in Malaysia a Happy Labor Day.

This year the arrival of Labor Day is not celebrated as it usually is. There will be no assemblies during the outbreak COVID-19. Also, coincidentally this year's Labor Day falls on Ramadhan Month.

With the trend of the current world cases, the outbreak of COVID-19 is expected to continue for a considerable period of time. It will not end in the near future.

Although there is no national Labor Day 2020 celebration at this year, the contributions and sacrifices of public sector workers and the private sector has been greatly appreciated by the Government.

Beginning March 18, the government declared the Movement Control Order or MCO. This is the first time in history, the government enforced such orders.

During this time, working from home and staying at home were great sacrifices of the workers in helping the Government contain transmission of COVID-19.

Our discipline to sit quietly at home or work from home so far has been fruitful.

Firstly, we have been able to improve our public health service capacity to address the number of COVID-19 patients. God willing, we have sufficient resources, the hospital beds, the quarantine facilities, medicines, respiratory aids or ventilators, self-protection equipment and testing labs in case infection rates increase again.

Secondly, we need to accept that fact in the coming months, it is impossible for any country to reach zero cases of COVID-19 infection. All we can do is increase our public health service's ability to cope with any outcome.



So, even though we have successfully controlled the transmission of COVID-19, we should not be negligent. Continue to be cautious. Practice the habit of social distancing, wash your hands often, wear face masks in a public setting and see a doctor if you have any symptoms.

Third, we have more green zone areas than zones red. It is also the result of a great deal of cooperation amongst yourselves to be disciplined. Keep doing this so we can convert more areas that are affected to 'green' as quickly as possible.

According to the Ministry of Health, our country has met the six criteria set by the World Health Organization or WHO;

First, our country's border controls have been tightened to prevent the rate of COVID-19 positive import cases from occurring;

Second, control the movement to reduce the rate of infection among local people;

Third, increase of capacity of health facilities;

Fourth, the ability to care for at-risk people like the elderly, patients in treatment as well as persons with disabilities;

Fifth, instill new normal practices in life for instance by not participating in mass gatherings, limiting social interactions, practicing social distancing and wearing face masks; and

Sixth, the empowerment of communities to care for areas that are not infected like green zones and practice new normal activities.

Thankfully, our sacrifices throughout the implementation of the MCO were not in vain.

The number of new cases has dropped significantly. The number of patients cured have also improved. Use of beds in hospitals dedicated to COVID-19 patients do not exceed 30 percent.

My dear brothers and sisters,

From the beginning, the Government had a clear plan in place to fight the Covid-19 pandemic and face the Government's economic crisis us strategies that include 6 approaches:

The first is in the determination or resolve in actions to control the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic by implementing the MCO;

Second, by building resilience through a stimulus package PRIHATIN economy to improve people's livelihood and economy;



Third, regenerate or restart the economy on a regular and controlled basis;

Fourth, implement economic recovery strategies in the face of new norms;

Fifth, strengthen or revitalize the economy as a whole for future sustainability; and

Sixth, restructure or reform the economic structure to allow the country and its people to step into the era of life that has changed with the 'new norm' or 'new normal.'

Thankfully, the first and second approaches have been fruitful.

We are now ready to begin the third approach, that is to regularize economic activity across the country in a controlled manner while observing caution. The government will then enforce the Conditional Movement Control Order or CMCO. Most of the activities economic and social will be allowed, except for activities which involve crowds and which may expose the public to the risk of the COVID-19 outbreak, these will not be allowed. Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) will also be implemented at areas with high COVID-19 positive cases.

I know after almost two months of the MCO, many want to get back to work. For traders, they want to reopen their respective business. For industry entrepreneurs, to be sure their respective companies can operate again.

This is important for you because your work and businesses are a source of income and means of living. If we remain in the MCO for too long, then it will adversely affect your financial position.

The same goes for our country. Stopping economic activity staggers the country's source of income. Taxes cannot be collected, industries cannot grow, economic growth is stunted and what we want to avoid the most is that more businesses have to close and many workers lose their jobs.

I would like to mention here that our country lost about RM2.4 billion daily during the MCO period. Total loss to date has been estimated at around RM63 billion. If the MCO continues to next month, our country will lose RM35 billion in revenue total loss of RM98 billion.

At the same time, many are worried that the MCO will end. What will happen to our efforts to address COVID 19. The virus is still out there. Despite the number of new cases COVID 19 decreasing, the risk of increasing the rate of infection remains. Many will come out of work and move from here to there. By doing that, the COVID 19 outbreak can be contagious again.

I am aware that you are worried. I'm worried too. And evidently it has already happened in some other countries, when 'Lockdown' stopped, number of positive cases COVID 19 increased suddenly. This we must avoid.



So, I've talked at length about this at the Economic Action Council meeting, the Security Council meeting and Meeting of the Cabinet. We must find a way to offset the need to revive the country's economy and importance of containment of COVID outbreak 19.

According to the Ministry of Health's advice based on its data collected and best practices determined by the World Health Organization or WHO, the government has decided to cautiously reopen the economic sectors and are careful to enforce strict health SOPs.

Starting May 4, 2020, almost all sectors of the economy and business activities will be allowed to operate subject to the conditions and SOPs set by the authorities.

I say almost everything because there are still several categories of industries and businesses that are not permitted to operate. This is business or activity involving public gatherings and body contact, where social distancing is difficult to control. Among them movie theaters, karaoke centers, reflexology centers, entertainment centers, nightclubs, theme parks, Ramadan bazaars, Aidilfitri bazaar, carnivals and all forms of conferences and exhibitions.

In addition to business, sports activities involving assembly of crowds, physical contact and other risks of infection are also not allowed. This includes football, rugby, swimming and all other sporting events indoor and in stadiums. Outdoor sports activities not involving body contact and mass assembly are allowed. So, my dear friends, you can play badminton or outdoor tennis without the audience. Jogging, biking, golf and running in small groups of not more than 10 people are also allowed provided you practice social distancing and avoid body contact.

Social gatherings and cultural events involving crowds like feasts, open houses, breaking fast crowds, concerts, cultural performances, monthly government gatherings and private departments and all forms of council inauguration and assembly are not permitted.

Religious activities such as religious parades, Friday prayers and all religious activities or gatherings in mosques, prayer rooms and houses of worship are also not allowed.

Cross-border travel is also not allowed except for purpose of attending work and returning home after stranded in the village or elsewhere. Cross-travel state to return to the village during the Aidilfitri holiday is not allowed.

Currently, all schools, colleges and institutions of higher learning remain closed and has not been re-opened.

A complete list of unauthorized businesses or activities can be referred to the National Security Council website. This list will be reviewed periodically depending on the development of COVID-19 infection.



Apart from the exception listings, all sectors of the business and industry, the public sector and the social sector are allowed to operating subject to the current terms and conditions as well SOPs set by the authorities.

These SOPs include social distancing, frequent hand washing, wearing face mask, report to the Department of Health immediately if available information on COVID-19 infection, protection priority at-risk groups such as children, infants, the elderly and the disabled,

An unhealthy and symptomatic individual should be treated immediately, number of passengers in public vehicles should consider social distancing and transactions via online is encouraged.

I want to give you some simple examples of how this SOP will be implemented. For example, starting May 4th, which is Monday next week, Mr. Salleh can reopen the closed restaurant. So ... within two days Mr. Salleh could go to the restaurant to clean restaurants, dishes, spoons, pots and other cooking utensils, arrange desks and chairs, and buy stocks of raw materials.

Make sure the table is arranged at least 2 meters apart with one table with another. It's important to that there be a lot of space for customers and employees, and there is a safe distance between customers who eat there.

To ensure social distancing is practiced when customers eat, Mr Salleh can place a notice on each table for only one person, two- or three-persons people are allowed to eat depending on the size of the table. It's a small table maybe only one or two people are allowed. If the table is large, maybe three or four people. This is Mr Salleh's decision.

Second, create a line on the front floor of the counter. Measure the line at least one meter away from each other. This is for ensure customers line up at least one meters distance in front of or behind another customer when they are to make a payment.

Third, prepare hand sanitizer over the counter. That customers that have already paid can use hand sanitizer to clean hands. Also prepare enough soap or hand wash in the wash hands. Buy an adequate table cleaner. Every time after the customer eats, tell the employee to clean the table swiftly before another customer sits down.

Fourth, buy it face mask. Give it to employees and make sure they use it face mask all the time. Mr. Salleh should use face mask.

Fifth, on the first day the restaurant opens, it is possible to check the customer's body temperature before he was allowed into the restaurant. You can Use the appropriate temperature scanner to check customers body temperature.

Sixth, record the customer's name and phone number and date and when they came to the restaurant. This is important because if there is a positive COVID 19 case involving one customer, other customers coming in that day can be detected immediately.



So, there is actually a lot of work that Mr. Salleh has to do before he can reopen the restaurant. All this is important to ensure that there are no customers for Pak Salleh infected with COVID 19. Restaurant owners, food truck and food stalls must do the same.

If everyone does this, customers can come eat at a restaurant or buy a meal safely. If you're still suspicious, Just take away. No need to eat at a restaurant. This might be better.

Another example is the gas station. This is important because for the employees going back to work, they want to fill the car oil or each motorcycle. The number of customers will definitely increase. So, buy more hand sanitizer for customers to use.

Public transport companies must also be prepared. Of course the number of users will increase. We are in control transmission of COVID 19, we must avoid congestion at the bus stations, LRT, MRT and so on. There must be action taken by operators of public transport companies to control the movement of people and crowds.

To help prevent congestion public transport stations and at in a public vehicle, I recommend that all employers carry out flexible work hours, not all employees must come to work at that time is the same. So as much as we can avoid everyone from entering the office at the same time.

I also want to advise all public transport users to wear face masks. You will always be exposed to the COVID outbreak 19. So take the steps to protect yourself. Wear a nose and mouth cover and keep one or two more in the bag. Always bring it hand sanitizer to use if necessary.

In the workplace, employers must check the temperature of their workers daily. If body temperature is high, advise employees to go home or go to clinic immediately. Also, as an employee make sure the desk, office chairs and appliances are always clean. Avoid it touch or body contact with other colleagues.

These are some of the steps you must take to protect yourself from COVID 19. It's impossible for everyone to be forever locked in the house. We need to go out to work, trade and buy necessities daily. The important thing is to keep yourself clean. Keep safe and go out of the house for business purposes only.

In fact, even when all sectors of the economy are open, employers can encourage workers to work from home. This is the new norm we must practice. Talk to your employees. Any task that can be done at home, do it at home. It's better. Maybe arrange a daily schedule, working alternately. Today in the office, tomorrow work from home.

I think this can also solve childcare issues. Even childcare centers will be opened with practicing certain health SOPs, I know many parents who are worried about sending their children. So, if the employer can provide some flexibility to a married couple working to come to work at intervals or alternate days, this can help solve child care problems.



Today the wife works from home, the husband works at the office. Tomorrow husband works from home, wife works in the office. So the child doesn't have to be sent to the care center. Only those who have no choice but to do so. Indirectly this can reduce the amount children in the care center and it is easier for caregivers take care of these children in accordance with the prescribed health SOP.

So I ask employers help to allow the couple who have to look after little children at home to be allowed to work every alternate days or work from home. For the public sector to start operating from May 4, 2020, the government encourage civil servants to work from home except for the process work that requires office space. Meetings are also is encouraged to be held online using a secure medium. For those who have difficulty caring for children at home, the government allows for workers to practice flexible working hours.

I request that all Head of Department hold a discussion at department level to restructure requirements and adjust human resources in the department with the concept of working from home.

My dear brothers and sisters,

I understand that you may be a bit worried when our economy is starting to open. Many will leave the house to work. They will be everywhere. On the road, at the LRT station, at gas stations, on buses, in grabs, in restaurants, in supermarkets and in other places. The COVID 19 virus remains out there and risk infection is always present. I'm worried too.

Let's not panic and don't give up. I'm confident in the ability of our frontline officers to carry out their duties and prevent this outbreak.

But more important is ourselves. It's our responsibility. Keep yourself clean. Don't leave the house unless you have to. Follow the SOP at all times. Wear a nose cover and mouth when out in public. Bring hand sanitizer. If it is possible to make working from home a new norm. You who are the head of the family, the leader of the community and must also be play a role. Advice children, members of the public to always careful. Avoid crowds in the neighbourhood. Practice social distancing as a new norm in life.

In case of COVID symptoms at the workplace or at residential area, quickly report to authorities. In combating COVID-19, contact detection or contact tracing is very important. The health care provider must know who has been in close contact to the person identified positive for COVID-19. To facilitate contact tracing, the government has established an application MySejahtera and MyTrace. I hope all who have smartphones download this app to help the Ministry of Health check for contacts in the event of a new infection. This is our responsibility.

I take this opportunity to convey my Labour Day greetings and gratitude and appreciation in particular to our front line staff - doctors, nurses, police, military, RELA members,



immigration, Civil Defense Force, APMM, Department of Social Welfare and all employees in the public sector and private.

I would also like to wish everyone a happy Labour Day, leaders and members of trade unions including leaders CUEPACS and MTUC. In conjunction with today's Labour Day celebration, I want to remind workers and employers to remain in compliance with the Employment Act 1955, the Act Company 1966 and labour laws under the Ministry Human Resources.

The Ministry of Humans Resources have issued guidelines for the implementation of full pay, paid sick leave and hospitalization for quarantined workers, alternative holiday action without pay and pay reduction with mutual agreement between employers and workers during the MCO period. This guide can be referred to the Department of Labour, Ministry Human Resources.

All employers are required to adhere to the guidelines handling issues regarding transmission of COVID-19 at work, especially those involving quarantine orders, sick leave and termination of employment. Employers can also take steps to prevent termination of COVID-19 among workers as recommended in the company process or Code of Conduct, ie limiting overtime and reduce the workday of the week or reduce it number of jobs per week.

It is my hope that all employees and employers can continue to uphold and embrace new ways of working or new norms of work under our efforts to control COVID-19 outbreak.

God willing, we must win.

Finally, I wish everyone a "Happy Labor Day 2020" in Malaysia.

Wabillahi al-taufiq wal hidayah wassalamuálaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh.