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EU-MALAYSIA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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Unofficial Translation
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA
MEDIA STATEMENT

MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (MCO) FROM 13TH – 26TH JANUARY 2021

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamuálaikum warahmatullahi wa barakatuh dan salam sejahtera.

How are you guys doing? I hope you are healthy and well.

Brothers and sisters,

1. Malaysia began recording four-digit daily cases for COVID-19 as of October 24, 2020 (a total of 1,228 cases). Starting from the end of November 2020, the phenomenon of four-digit daily cases for COVID-19 were recorded every day up to the highest record ever on January 7, 2021, amounting to 3,027 cases.
2. During this third wave which began on September 20 2020, a total of 476 new clusters were reported until January 10 2021, involving 259 clusters (54.41%) at workplaces. This data shows a significant increase in the number of new clusters during the third wave compared to 110 new clusters recorded during the second wave with 25 clusters (22.72%) involving workplace.

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3. In total, a total of 586 clusters were recorded until 10 January 2021 with 48.46% of them being clusters involving workplaces. Of these too, as many as 254 clusters are still active while 332 clusters have been declared ended.
4. During the third wave of COVID19 infection in Malaysia, the trend of import cases was found to be under control but local transmission cases continued to increase involving non-citizens and citizens.
5. At the beginning of the third wave on 20 September 2020, the cases are more focused on non-citizen groups, i.e. as many as 63% and only 37% involve citizens. However current developments indicate infection in citizens as increasing. Until January 11, 2021, as many as 70% of positive COVID-19 cases in Malaysia involve citizens and only 30% for non-citizens.
6. Based on the current R-naught value which is at level 1.1 for COVID-19 infection in Malaysia, projection of daily cases in the country is expected to reach up to 5,000 cases a day in the second week of April 2021 and will soar to 8,000 cases a day in the fourth week of May 2021.
7. The higher the R-naught value, the harder it is to control contagion as more and more people become infected. Implementation The Movement Control Order (MCO) in March was

successful lowering the value of R to 0.335, thus reducing the case COVID-19 infection to one (1) to two (2) digits a day.

8. This trend is obviously very worrying and the Government is aware that a more rigorous approach must be taken to break this chain of transmission of COVID-19 infection, at the same time decrease the number of daily positive cases to a controlled and possible level managed more effectively.
9. The government listens to complaints and suggestions from the people all of which are deeply concerned with development recent increase in cases. The government also understands the workload faced by the officers our health following a sharp increase in cases. Our front-liners are getting tired and the country's public health is getting worse.

My dear brothers and sisters,

10. At this time, the facilities of the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) already unable to accommodate the increase of up to 2,000 new cases every day. Our healthcare system is at breaking point. I want to explain the reality of the situation of the health system we are facing now:
 - I. Fifteen (15) COVID-19 hospitals recorded rates COVID-19 (non-ICU) bed use exceeds 70 percent.

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- II. In the Klang Valley, the rate of use of ICU beds for COVID-19 patients at Kuala Lumpur Hospital and at the Medical Center University of Malaya has reached 100 percent while in Hospital Sungai Buloh has reached 83 percent. Meanwhile, usage rates of ICU beds for COVID-19 patients in five (5) states namely Perak, Selangor, Melaka, Terengganu and Sarawak has exceeded 70 percent.
- III. Currently, there are more than 1,450 medical personnel in nationwide hospitals that have been infected or forced to undergo quarantine instructions and unable to work.
- IV. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 continues to increase to 521 cases with a mortality rate of 0.41 percent. Malaysia recorded over 100 deaths a month for October to December 2020 compared to two 2 to 59 deaths a month for March to September 2020.
- V. The increase in highly daily cases causes delays health workers to bring patients from homes to the hospital and to the Quarantine and Low Risk Treatment Center COVID-19 (PKRC).
- VI. Flood disasters and increasing cases in some states also complicate the process of mobilizing workers in the country as well between states. This makes it difficult to increase the number of beds ICU for critically ill patients.

11. In dealing with this COVID-19 pandemic, it is very important for any country to avoid incidents of increasing cases in a short period of time.

12. A sharp increase in the number of patients will cripple the capacity of the existing health system in an instant. It is no longer able to accommodate that number of patients requiring treatment and cases of death will continue to increase.

13. It is not easy for me to say all this but here is the reality that is prevailing now with the various possibilities that we have to face if left unchecked without stricter public health interventions or interventions.

14. The situation today is indeed very alarming. Our healthcare system is under tremendous pressure now than at any other time since the start of the pandemic. As I have said before, unprecedented situations call for unprecedented measures.

15. Therefore based on risk assessment by the Ministry Health Malaysia, National Security Council (MKN) as well various Ministries and Agencies as well as public health experts in the country, the Government agrees with the view that a firm action should be taken to severe the chain of COVID-19 virus transmission.

16. To that end, the Government has decided to implement **Movement Control Order (MCO)** for a period of 14 days starting at **12.01 midnight, Wednesday, January 13, 2021** until January 26, 2021. This order involves **three stages implementation** as follows:

- a. First, MCO on six (6) states, namely Pulau Pinang, Selangor, Wilayah Persekutuan (Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan), Melaka, Johor and Sabah.
- b. Second, Conditional CMCO (PKP-B) on six (6) pieces states namely Pahang, Perak, Negeri Sembilan, Kedah, Terengganu and Kelantan.
- c. Third, RMCO (PKP-P) will be implemented for the states of Perlis and Sarawak and will continue during that period.

17. The states imposed under MCO are states that are deemed as high risk as a result of risk assessment by MOH and level of health services reaching almost maximum capacity. MOH will continuously assess the risk to decide whether the implementation of this MCO will be terminated or continued before the two-week period expires.

Brothers and sisters,

18. To reduce the risk of infection and break this COVID-19 chain, social activities involving en masse groups such as weddings, conferences, religious parades including Thaipusam, meetings, seminars, courses and group sports are **NOT ALLOWED** at all.

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However, for the states under the implementation of **CMCO** social activities are permitted, subject to SOP compliance tight. **Cross-state movement is NOT ALLOWED** nationwide while for MCO areas, **cross-district movement is also NOT ALLOWED**.

19. Following this ban on movement across states and districts, **roadblock operations (SJR) will take effect on at 12.01 midnight, Wednesday, January 13, 2021**. For the states implementing **MCO**, movement is limited inside **10 kilometer radius only**. For the purpose of buying goods necessities from a nearby supermarket or grocery store, **ONLY TWO (2) household members** are allowed to leave and be in the same vehicle. Any individual who violates this prohibition may be subject to a maximum compound RM1,000.
20. For the economic sector, the Government has identified five (5) sectors allowed to operate and categorized as essential economic sector (manufacturing) such as **manufacturing, construction, services, trade and distribution, as well as plantations and commodities**.
21. This sector is allowed to operate because of their role in supporting the work of supplying basic necessities such as food, beverages and household items as well as personal care; PPE equipment, medical devices and medicines to health workers; international trade activities; ensuring uninterrupted supply chains and supporting critical infrastructure and emergency work.

22. However, **only 30 percent of employees in the management group** are allowed to be in the office while for employees in the support group, the number of employees required at any one time will be determined by their respective employers. I would like to remind you that the specified number of employees **must take into account the strict compliance of the prescribed SOP**. Maintain social distancing while at work. For any employer who violates the SOP and causes the spread of COVID-19 infection in the workplace, strict action will be taken based on the law including closing the premises.
23. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will detail the types of services listed as essential economic sector. MITI and the Ministry of Works will also detail the construction work allowed to operate.
24. For sectors or services that are not listed as essential services, **work from home instructions** will take effect. All employers must adhere to these instructions to reduce movement within the community, especially in high-density areas. Only with this measure, we can reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection in the workplace.

25. During the implementation of **MCO** restaurants and hawker stalls are allowed to operate **ONLY** for take away services while for **(CMCO)** and **(RMCO)** areas, both are allowed to operate as usual according to the SOP that has been set. Food delivery services are allowed to operate.
26. Supermarkets, health services including clinics, hospitals and pharmacies; as well as banks are allowed to operate in **MCO** areas at a vigilant level. Obey the SOP while in these places such as wearing face mask properly, maintain social distancing and use hand sanitizer often. If there is no immediate or urgent need, there is no need to leave the house. Stay at home.
27. The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) has assured that supply in all retail sectors is adequate. Monitoring of consumer necessities such as sugar, cooking oil, wheat flour, rice, white bread, milk powder, chicken, vegetables, eggs, onions, hand sanitizer and face mask will be done daily.

Brothers and sisters,

28. Although there are strict movement restrictions, especially in states where MCO is imposed, exemptions are given to students and candidates for major examinations including SPM examinations for the 2020 and 2021 sessions. They are allowed to attend schools with strict SOPs. The Ministry of Education Malaysia will detail this SOP.

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29. For religious activities, only committee members of mosques or houses of worship are allowed to attend in the states implementing by PKP with a maximum of 5 people. For states subject to RMCO and CMCO, religious activities are still allowed with the minimum number of attendance stipulated in the SOP. State religious authorities are advised to provide appropriate stipulations in determining the amount of attendance allowed.

29. I am also aware that isolation for a long period of time can put a strain on mental health. Therefore, to ensure continuous mental and physical health, you are allowed to leave the house to have fun with members of the household only. Make sure your distance from others is two (2) meters at a time. If you want to jog, do not be more than two (2) people and if cycling, do not be in groups. One person is enough.

My dear brothers and sisters,

31. The next two weeks are very important for not only ourselves but also the whole Nation. All the freedom we sacrificed for this - disconnected with friends, being in isolation at home, and having difficulty for doing social activities outside - will be able to save the lives of us all.

32. This virus is already in the community and alive with us. Let us not feel too comfortable and finally ignoring such simple precautions for us to practice like washing our hands often with soap, wear face mask properly, keep physical distance and avoid from contact.

33. I want to invite community leaders or community leaders to care for and protect their respective communities from being the site of transmission of COVID-19 infection. You are all frontliners in your inner community the fight against this virus. Establish cooperation with the office district health, community health clinics and even councils district to educate your community members so that they too know how best to prevent COVID-19 infection this.

34. As proof of the government's commitment to empower community, a high-level committee chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Government together with the Minister of Special Duties has been formed to ensure the implementation of community empowerment measures more effectively.

35. Assume that the virus is inside us so that we are always vigilant and not complacent in complying with the designated SOP. We laughed outside with friends and family, but we often forget all the SOPs and health struggles of frontliners, sacrificing time with family and sighing alone to control transmission of this COVID-19 infection.

Brothers and sisters,

36. I also want to take the opportunity to announce that the Phase 3 Clinical Study of the COVID-19 vaccine will start on 21 January 2021 in nine (9) Hospitals of MOH under the direction of the Clinical Research Center - CRC) respectively.

37. The first clinical study conducted in Malaysia is expected to involve 3,000 volunteers and Malaysia will become the first country outside China for candidate study in activated vaccine COVID-19 vaccine made by the Institute of Medical Biology Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, China (IMBCAMS). All regulatory requirements including ethical approval from Medical Review & Ethics Committee (MREC) and finally, Clinical Trial Import License (CTIL) from NPRA was obtained on January 8, 2021.

38. In addition, the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Association (NPRA) of The Ministry of Health (MOH) has also approved registration of COVID-19 vaccine produced by pharmaceutical company, Pfizer. Thus, **Malaysia is expected to receive a supply of Pfizer vaccines for the first phase at the end of February**, with God willing.

As a preliminary preparation to ensure the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines to the people of this country runs smoothly when supply is obtained, MOH has developed the **National COVID-19 Immunization Program Plan**.

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39. To achieve group immunity, as much as 60-70 percent or 20-23 million Malaysians need to be given the COVID-19 vaccine. For now, the government has already signed a preliminary agreement with Covax facilities, Pfizer and AstraZeneca companies for procurement of the COVID-19 vaccine to secure vaccine supply to cover as much as 40 percent of population. The government is also in the process of final negotiations with Sinovac, CanSino and Gamaleya to get a guarantee of increased vaccine supply exceeding 80 per cent of the total population of the country or 26.5 million.

40. The government will ensure that only vaccines that meet the safety requirements, quality and effective will be registered and used in Malaysia. This evaluation process is conducted by the Committee of Product Evaluation of the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Association (NPRA) for approval and Drugs Control Authority for the purpose of registration before the COVID-19 vaccine can be used in Malaysia.

My dear brothers and sisters,

41. I want to remind everyone including myself to continue to comply with all prescribed SOPs. Yes, it is true that we will receive a supply of vaccines soon but that is not the only precautionary measure and certainly not for healing.

42. The most important prevention is with ourselves performing the practice of hand washing using soap frequently, usage of hand sanitizer if there is no source of water nearby, wear a face mask when in public places, maintain physical distance and avoid physical contact.

43. Together, we have the opportunity to curb and break the COVID-19 infection transmission chain from becoming worse. I really hope that all the advice and warning I convey today will be fully heeded by all layers of society.

44. I provide guarantee that the Government will do the best to provide protection to all citizens. And I also appeal to all to do the best to protect yourselves, community and society. Only by uniting against this virus can we win. God willing.

Thank you. Wabillahi taufiq wal hidayah wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

YAB TAN SRI DATO 'HAJI MUHYIDDIN BIN HAJI MOHD YASSIN

JANUARY 11, 2021

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