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[SPEECH TEXT]

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PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

Implementation of Recovery Movement Control Order

(RMCO)

JUNE 7, 2020 (SUN)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi and greetings,

How are you all? I wish you all well.

1. Last Friday evening, I announced the plan to Revitalize the Economy or PENJANA with 40 initiatives worth RM35 billion for the recovery efforts of the country that was affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. This afternoon I will announce some steps that will be taken by the government to enter the COVID-19 recovery phase. This recovery phase is part of an exit strategy from the Movement Control Order which came into force on March 18, 2020, then followed by the Conditional Movement Control Order since May 4, 2020.

2. Alhamdulillah, since the MCO and the CMCO have been implemented COVID-19, infection rates in our country has shown a declining trend. Statistics from the Ministry of Health shows infection rates among locals are low and controlled. Most of the cases recorded lately are of imported cases and cases involving illegal immigrants at the immigration detention centres. We are grateful for the quick action of the frontliners who have successfully suppressed the transmission of COVID-19 among detainees at the immigration depot, and the situation is currently under control. At the same time, the medical capacity and public health standards in our country are better. This shows that Malaysia has successfully suppressed the transmission of COVID-19 effectively and is now entering the recovery phase.

3. I would like to thank all the frontliners and to all of you who have contributed to our success in controlling the COVID-19 outbreak. This success is yours. You have cooperated with the authorities in complying with the requirements of the SOPs since the implementation of MCO and CMCO.
4. Therefore, this evening I would like to announce a relieving news to all of you. The CMCO ending on June 9, 2020 will be replaced by Recovery Movement Control Order or RMCO from June 10, 2020 to August 31, 2020. During this RMCO period, more flexibility will be given to all of you to perform your daily activities while you continue to follow the SOPs.
5. Starting June 10, 2020, interstate travel will be permitted except for areas placed under Enhanced Movement Control Order or EMCO. So, for those who want to visit their parents living far away in the country may do so. My advice is that you maintain good hygiene, wear face masks while in public places and avoid crowded areas when you travel back to the hometown. Remember, if your parents are senior citizens, they are in the category of people who are prone to the infection. So, even though we enjoy visiting them, our responsibility should be to protect them from the infection.
6. During the RMCO period, almost all social, educational, religion, business, economic sector, etc. will continue to be opened up in stages in compliance with the SOPs. As announced previously by Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, barber services, salons, markets, morning markets, night markets, bazarias, food courts, hawker centers, food trucks and food stalls will be allowed to operate.
7. Additionally, commercial activities which involve transactions and tradings outside business premises will be allowed to resume operations during the RMCO. These include museums, indoor busking activities and self-service laundry centres, recreational and fishing activities including commercial fishing ponds as well as filming activities. Meetings and workshops are also allowed if the participants comply with the health protocols and maintain optimum spacing conditions.
8. In the sports category, several sports and recreational activities will be reopened in compliance with the SOPs which will include team sports training. Sports activities that do not require bodily contacts would be allowed, such as bowling, badminton, archery, shooting and more. Outdoor group activities such as cycling and cycling convoys are also allowed. Competitive sports such as rugby, wrestling, boxing, football, basketball and hockey which attracts the gathering of supporters to stadiums and public pools are still not allowed.

9. In accordance with the economic recovery phase of the country, there will be no restrictions on interstate travel, and domestic tourism will be allowed. So you can travel with your family domestically, while practicing the new normal, after almost three months without any traveling. For those who wish to travel abroad, do wait as the borders are still closed.
10. In the category of festivals and religious activities, I would like to convey the good news. Hari Raya Aidiladha celebration and Qurban activities are permitted subjected to the standard operating procedure (SOP) set by the religious authorities. The government is refining the procedures to allow hosting of congregational prayers within the premises of mosques and houses of worship. The announcements will be made shortly in this regard.
11. For parents who have school-going children, you may wonder when the schools will be reopened. For your information, schools will reopen in stages during the RMCO, upon receiving advice from the Ministry of Health. The Education Ministry will make a detailed announcement on the matter soon.
12. During the recovery period towards normalization, several activities and sectors categorized as the prohibited activities during the CMCO will be relaxed according to the SOPs in place. For example, businesses may resume normal working hours after getting used to the required SOP in the new normal involving the owner of the premises and customers. Social distancing, use of face masks in public places and frequent hand washing with soap or hand sanitizer are the new normal to be practiced.
13. Although I have announced a lot of relaxation, this does not mean no more restrictions will be imposed by the government to control the transmission of COVID-19. Some activities or sectors are still prohibited. These include pubs, nightclubs, entertainment centers, reflexology centers, karaoke centers, theme parks, mass religious parades, feasts, open-houses and any other activity that cannot maintain proper social distancing due to the presence of a crowd.
14. To know more about the list of activities or sectors permitted, or restricted, you may visit the National Security Council (MKN) website.

My dear brothers and sisters,

15. The government will implement RMCO based on 7 Strategies:

- Strengthening of Public Health;
- Law and Enforcement;
- Strengthening Border Control;
- Full Reopening of Economic Sector;
- Culturalisation of New Norms;
- Empowerment of Community Responsibility; and
- Protection of High-Risk Groups

16. These strategies will be implemented through the Special Ministerial Committee on the Imposition of the RMCO which will be chaired by Senior Minister (security cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob. While at the state government level, the strategies will be implemented by committees set up by the Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers. The implementation of these strategies will need the cooperation and support of all parties, including the machinery of the federal and state governments, private sector, non-governmental organizations and community leaders.

17. Since the implementation of MCO almost three months ago, the government has implemented various strategies and steps that are appropriate in addressing the containment of the COVID-19 outbreak. Many controls and restrictions have been applied to all of you. However, I realize that the government will not be able to place the daily life of the public under control forever in order to contain the outbreak. I am also aware that many among the public wanted to resume their everyday life and return to normalcy. You would want to go out to work, carry out business and recreational activities; visit other places together with your family and perform other things in your daily routine.

18. Hence, it is time for the government to ease the restrictions on the condition that the public is responsible and serious about embracing the new normal while adhering to the SOPs set by the government. That means the responsibility in controlling Covid-19 now lies in your hands. I would also like to emphasize the importance of leaders in the community including village heads, community leaders and NGO leaders in ensuring that all members of the community comply with the government-mandated SOPs to prevent the spread of the disease. The same applies to employers; they must be responsible and ensure all of your workers adhere to the SOPs at the workplace.

19. If my fellow citizens remain disciplined and spiritually strong, I believe, InsyaAllah, the Covid-19 outbreak will remain firmly under control, and we will then enter the normalization phase after August 31 until a vaccine for the Covid-19 is developed. However, I would like to remind that the government will not hesitate to impose an Enhanced Movement Control order (EMCO) on a specific locality or area if an exponential resurgence of Covid-19 cases is discovered. I hope we would be disciplined to avoid such resurgence of Covid-19 cases.

20. In accordance with the implementation of RMCO, I call upon everyone to use the MySejahtera app developed by the government to conduct health self-assessments. This application will also enable the Ministry of Health Malaysia to take swift, accurate and effective actions to identify and inform close contacts should there be a Covid-19 infection in the community.

21. It is important that we all have to be prepared to accustom to the new normal in our lives. Yes, sometimes we feel a little difficult to practice it but trust that with every difficulty there will be ease. As Allah says in Surah Ash-Sharh verses 4 and 5:

“So verily, with the hardship, there is relief. Verily, with the hardship there is relief.”

22. Finally, I pray that our health and well-being are protected, and we can all live a happy life with our family and loved ones.

Wabillahi al-taufik walhidayah wassalamu’alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh

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