

MALAYSIA BOLEH!

By: Nur Hanan binti Badhrulhisham, 1171205

Faculty of Major Language Studies (FPBU), Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)

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No one has ever expected this would be serious. On 11th March 2020, WHO (World Health Organization) declared the Covid-19 as a pandemic. It has affected not only one, two or three countries but the whole world. Everything seems to be stopped as if time itself is paused. There are restrictions for people to move from one place to another. School, universities, offices, many small businesses and even the big ones are forced to shut down the operation. 2020 is not at all like what we expected before. Everyone is struggling to survive.

How does Malaysia handle the situation at hand? First off, Malaysia's Minister of Health is doing a great job in making sure the public health facilities are ready to take on the crisis. A thorough preparation is being made for the third wave of the virus outbreak, including a Covid-19 Quarantine and Treatment Centre for 600 low-risk patients located at MAEPS (Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang). The front liners especially the medical team are putting their utmost effort, working day and night serving the country. These committed front liners are a living proof that Malaysia indeed deserve the first rank in Best Healthcare in the World category of the 2019 International Living Annual Global Retirement Index.

The government also makes an appropriate enforcement of MCO (Movement Control Order), initially for two weeks starting from 18th March which is now extended until mid of April. The MCO involves the police and military forces to ensure everyone stays at home, resulting in over 97% compliance on Saturday, 28th March 2020. The borders are also closed

from foreign travellers entering the country to prevent transmission of the virus from abroad. Meanwhile, Malaysians in China and other countries such as Iran and Italy were brought back home to protect fellow Malaysians before things get worse in the foreign countries.

US investment bank, JP Morgan states that the testing strategy “test per million capita” in Malaysia will increase the numbers reported infections, and this will surely help in reducing mortality rates. In fact, the ‘test per million capita’ in Malaysia is 4-81 times higher than some other Asean nations. As for economic perspective, the government had announced the Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package on 27th March that brings relief to the people. The speech was concise and easy to understand and ended with the now famous line; “this Government may not be the Government that you voted for. But I want all of you to know that this Government cares for you”, was praised greatly by netizens who show gratitude through their tweets and comments on social media.

The country is trying its best in fighting this invisible threat. The front liners are literally risking their life, constantly exposing themselves to the virus. The supermarkets run as usual, to make sure food supply is accessible. The police and military work every day to make sure everyone abides to the MCO. As the people who are being protected by everyone mentioned, it is our responsibility to stay alert and stay at home. We can all fight by playing our part. Malaysia Boleh!



