

# EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA

*BUCHAREST, ROMANIA*

## *Issues in this Edition:*

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Romania**

**Mission Response to  
COVID-19**

**Ambassador@work**

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## **Highlight of this Edition: COVID-19 Pandemic in Romania**

The COVID-19 pandemic in Romania is part of the ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The virus was confirmed to have reached Romania on 26 February 2020, when the first case in Gorj County was confirmed.

As of 30 June, the Romanian Government reports 741 people in institutional quarantine, a further 58,991 in home isolation under medical supervision, and 796,484 tests having been processed.

*cont'd p.3*

# Foreword by Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi Tahir

Dear Readers,

It gives me a great pleasure to present you the Embassy's newsletter for the first half of 2020.

Since the beginning of Covid-19, Romania was put under State of Emergency and then State of Alert twice. Two decrees were signed on 16 March and 14 April 2020 and the documents proposed measures were meant to improve the State's response capacity to similar challenges in Romania. These restrictive measures also were meant to avoid a worst-case scenario, given that Romania did not have the needed medical stocks for emergencies, and all countries across the globe were in a race to acquire sanitary supplies and medicines. Malawakil Bucharest accredited countries such as Bulgaria, Greece and Moldova also imposed their measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in their respective territory.

Despite the restrictive measures and lockdown imposed, Malawakil Bucharest were able to provide the necessary consular services and support to all Malaysians stranded in Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Moldova and successfully repatriated them all home. After 3 months of lockdown since March 2020, the pandemic situation in Romania is yet to show positive signs of improvement to end the pandemic soon.

Despite of the gradual easing of restrictive measures, Malawakil Bucharest continues to monitor the situation and provided updates and reports to the Ministry's Task Force and Malaysians in Romania and its accredited countries. With daily Covid-19 cases has gone from several hundreds to approximately 1200 new cases, Malaysians still need to be cautious and adhere to the rules and regulations imposed. Malawakil Bucharest takes this opportunity to thank all the front-liners and healthcare workers for their commitment and sacrifice to keep everyone safe.

Stay safe and stay strong.





## *cont'd from p. 1* **COVID-19 Pandemic in Romania**

### **Timeline**

**21 February–2 March:** First cases and early preventive measures. Following a COVID-19 pandemic in Italy, the Romanian government announced a 14-day quarantine for citizens returning from the affected regions.

**8–13 March:** Ban on public gatherings, school and border closures. The Head of the Department for Emergency Situations, Raed Arafat, announced a ban on all indoor or outdoor activities involving the participation of more than 1,000 people.

**14–21 March:** State of Emergency. After over 101 people had been diagnosed with coronavirus, Romania entered the third COVID-19 scenario. President Iohannis issued the decree establishing the state of emergency in Romania for a period of 30 days and insisted that the implementation of the measures included in the decree is being made gradually.

**22 March–2 April:** First deaths, national lockdown, Suceava quarantine. The first three deaths were reported in Romania. All three had preexisting conditions: one was on dialysis, one had terminal lung cancer, and one had diabetes.

**4 April–14 May:** Face masks, Easter Week. A seventh Military Ordinance was issued, further extending the national lockdown period, and imposing a second local quarantine on the town of Țândărei, Ialomița County.

**15 May–present:** State of Alert and relaxation measures.



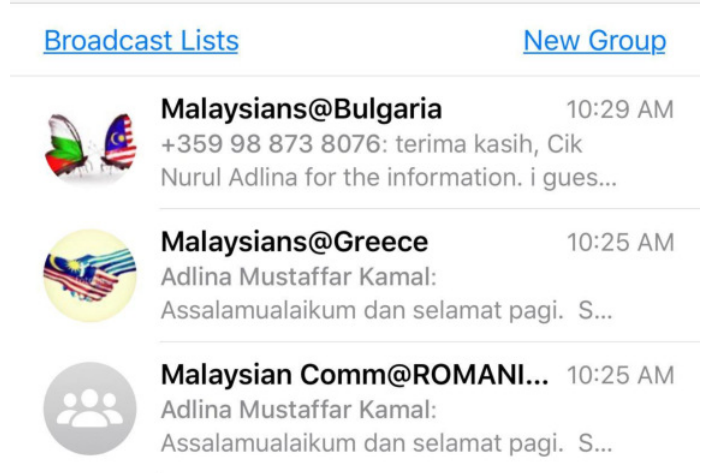
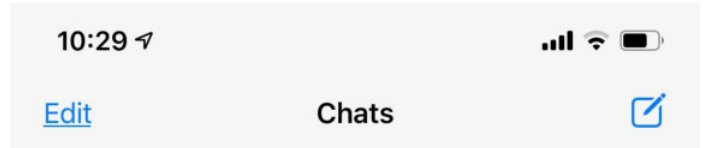
# Mission Response to COVID-19

As of 17 March, all countries within Europe had confirmed cases of COVID-19.

As soon as the news of COVID-19 spread, Mission contacted Malaysian community in Romania, Greece, Bulgaria and Moldova through WhatsApp groups to ensure their safety and well being.

Mission also issued announcement through various social media platforms to encourage Malaysians in these countries to quickly register to the Embassy of Malaysia in Bucharest.

From time to time, Mission issues consular advices and the latest development of COVID-19 pandemic through our social media platforms.



# Mission Response to COVID-19



On 13 March, the Government of Moldova announced they will ban all foreigners except those with permanent residence in Moldova from entering the country. Those who are in Moldova are allowed to leave the country. However, most of the airlines have been suspended their services since the announcement made by the Government.



Some of the land border crossings between Moldova and Romania have closed, and international train and bus services also have been suspended.



Due to the decision, there were a few cases of Malaysians stranded in Moldova. The Embassy rendered consular assistance to these Malaysians and managed to bring them to Bucharest by road through Romania-Moldova Border in Albitea, for their outgoing flights from Bucharest.



# Malaysia's Diplomatic Stockpiles (MDES)

**30 March:** Honourable Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, launched the Malaysia's Diplomatic Equipment Stockpile (MDES).

As we are facing unprecedented global pandemic, Malaysian diplomats serving at 106 Malaysian missions abroad act as frontliners and are at risk of being exposed to Covid-19. This initiative allows individuals, private sector and organisations to contribute essential medical equipment for Malaysian diplomatic frontliners abroad.

The Embassy of Malaysia in Bucharest received MDES contribution consists of face masks, hand sanitizers and gloves. We wish to thank our Minister of Foreign Affairs and those who have contributed to MDES for their generosity.



## **The First Virtual Briefing by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania on COVID-19 Pandemic**

**7 May:** Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi joined the virtual briefing organised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.

The briefing was co-hosted by the State Secretaries of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health, Mr. Cornel Feruță and Dr. Raed Arafat.

The virtual briefing hold by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania is a monthly meeting to brief all diplomatic corps on the latest development and measures taken by the Romanian Government to prevent spread of COVID-19 in Romania.



Among the measures adopted by the Romanian Government prior to this briefing are:

- Flights to and from Spain, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Iran, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Swiss Confederations, the United States of America and Turkey will be suspended;
- Movement of persons over 65-year old outside their residence are allowed between 7am - 11am and 7pm-11pm for the following reasons:
  - Purchasing basic goods/food;
  - Travel for justifiable reasons such as childcare, assistance for elderly, ill or disabled; and
  - Limited travel in vicinity of the residence.

- Movement of persons over 65-year old outside the mentioned timeframes are allowed for the following reasons:
  - Professional reasons, including travel from home to the workplace and back;
  - Travel to obtain medical assistance that cannot be postponed or performed remotely; and
  - travel for agriculture activities.

## ***The Second Virtual Briefing by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania***

**19 June:** Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi joined the monthly virtual briefing on “The Measures Taken by the Romanian Government in the Context of COVID-19”. The briefing was co-organised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health of Romania.



Among the issues that were highlighted during this briefing:

- The extension of State of Alert to 17 July 2020;
  - Visa and residence permits that expire throughout the State of Alert are considered as valid throughout the entire duration of this state, as well as for a period of 90 days after the termination of this state;
  - Open air diplomatic activities will be permitted within the Embassies' premises while respecting all health-safety measures;
  - Training and workshops with up to 20 persons focused on implementing projects financed through European funds;
  - Open air activities in the areas of national defense, order and public safety with up to 200 persons.
- Training in groups of up to 10 persons for minor football leagues;
  - Public Health Department at county level will organise the activity of residential healthcare centres for elderly, residential care centres for children and adult with or without disabilities as well as centres for other vulnerable categories; and
  - The license for organisers of activities and events that do not comply with rules of health safety will be suspended.

# Ambassador@Work: Courtesy Call by the Ambassador of Greece to Romania

**27 January** : Ambassador Abdullah received a courtesy call from H.E. Mrs. Sofia Grammata, Ambassador of Greece to Romania.

During the meeting, both Ambassadors expressed their satisfaction over the continuous cooperation in tourism and underlined the needs of continuous efforts to further enhance the bilateral ties between Malaysia and Greece.



## ***Courtesy Call by Romanian Diplomat to Malaysia***

**27 February:** Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi received a courtesy call by newly appointed Romanian Diplomat to Malaysia Mr. Marius Savuica.

During this call, Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi briefly explained to Mr. Marius Savuica the current issues pending between Malaysia and Romania.

Currently Malaysia and Romania enjoy warm and cordial bilateral relations. Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi hopes that the relations can be further strengthened by deepening cooperation in the existing areas, and establishing new collaboration in other sectors of mutual interest.

# Ambassador@Work: Meeting with Inspector General of Immigration of Romania

**14 February:** Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi met Inspector General of Immigration, Mr. Leonard Florin Medrega at his Office in Bucharest to discuss the possibility of immigration cooperation between Malaysia and Romania.



## *Romanian Tourism Fair*

**20 February :** Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi attended the Romanian Tourism Fair Opening Ceremony at Romexpo in Bucharest.

During the tourism fair, Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi took the opportunity to meet seven major travel agencies in Romania to promote Malaysian tourism.



# Ambassador@Work: Field Trip to Arges for Romanian Investment Zoom Program

**3 March:** Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi joined the Romanian Investment Zoom Program in Arges. The Romanian Investment Zoom aims to attract investment, from light and heavy industry, agriculture and tourism and projects for cultural exchanges.



## Collaboration with Taiba Foundation

**14 May:** In collaboration with Taiba Foundation in Bucharest, Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi delivered humanitarian assistance for those in need resulting from COVID-19 Pandemic in Bucharest and Constanta.



## ***Bid Farewell to the Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Bucharest***

**9 June:** Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi met H.E. Mr. Mihai Gribincea, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Romania.

During the meeting, H.E Mr. Mihai Gribincea welcomes any efforts towards creating conducive business environment between Moldova and Malaysia in order to attract more foreign investment to Moldova.

Since the establishment of the diplomatic relations with Moldova in 1991, bilateral ties between Malaysia and Moldova still remained stagnant for the past a few years.



## **Ambassador@Work: Meeting with Head of Missions of Malaysia in Europe**

**15 June:** Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi participated in the discussion with Heads of Mission of Malaysia in Europe to deliberate on Malaysia's overall engagement in the region, including issues related to palm oil, trade and investment opportunities between Malaysia and European countries.



# ***ASEAN Insights: First and Second Bucharest- ASEAN Committee (BAC) Group Luncheon***

**14 January:** H.E. Mr. Muhammad Amhar Azeth, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia hosted the First and Second Bucharest-ASEAN Committee (BAC) Group Luncheon at his residence.

During the Group Luncheon, also held the handover ceremony of the Chairman of the BAC from Indonesia to Malaysia. Malaysia was the Chairman of the BAC from January to June 2020.

The BAC discussed and proposed initiatives to promote ASEAN in Romania.



Taking into consideration the importance of the moment in ASEAN's progress, the Bucharest-ASEAN Committee (BAC) in collaboration with the University of Economic Studies (ASE) and Romanian Institute of European-Asian Studies (IRSEA) proposed to organize a seminar on "ASEAN's Role in Addressing Global Issues". The seminar was scheduled to take place on 23 March 2020.

The objectives of the seminar are to discuss about the role of ASEAN in addressing global issues, exchange views on challenges and opportunities in a changing global landscape and to discuss best practices and experiences in dealing with the challenges and opportunities of global change.

However, due to COVID-19 pandemic the seminar was postponed to a later date.

# ASEAN Insights: The Second Bucharest- ASEAN Committee (BAC) Meeting

**3 February:** The Second Bucharest-ASEAN Committee (BAC) met to further discuss on the proposed seminar.



**24 February:** Another meeting was held with the President of Romanian Institute of European-Asian Studies (IRSEA), Ambassador (Rtd) Gheorghe Săvuică to discuss on the arrangement of the seminar.

**27 February:** The Second BAC visited University of Economic Studies (ASE), the venue of the seminar.



# Activities by Mission: Chinese New Year Celebration 新年快乐!

In conjunction with Chinese New Year celebration, Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi hosted a lunch with Malaysian community in Romania. During the lunch, guests were entertained by a Nusantrik band from Malaysia, *Kicau-Bilau*.

Nusantrik is a method of cultural diplomacy, a trade that exhibits the heritage and traditions in various types of performances. With a minimal setup (guitar and angklung), they present contemporary Nusantara music to the world.

*Kicau-Bilau* had been touring Europe for more than three months, soundscaping warm sensations and exhibiting the eccentricity of Nusantara.



# Activities by Mission: Hi-Tea with Half-Moon Production Crew



**13 March:** Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi hosted a lunch for a group of Malaysian production crew at his residence. The crew spent almost three weeks in Romania for drama shooting. Among the locations that were selected for this drama shooting include Brasov and Constanta.



# Activities by Mission: Celebrating Mr. Nicolae Balasoiu's Retirement

22 April: Mr. Nicolae Balasoiu is re Mr. Nicole Balasoiu joined the Embassy on 15 October 1990 as a driver at the Embassy and retired after faithfully serving for 30 years.

We wish him happy retirement and we would like to remind him that retirement is not the end, it is just a new beginning. Happy retirement, Nicu. Si multumesc mult!





# Activities by Mission: Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration

24 May: Ambassador Abdullah Zawawi and Madam Badiyah Hanum hosted a small *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* celebration at his residence for the Embassy's staff and their family.

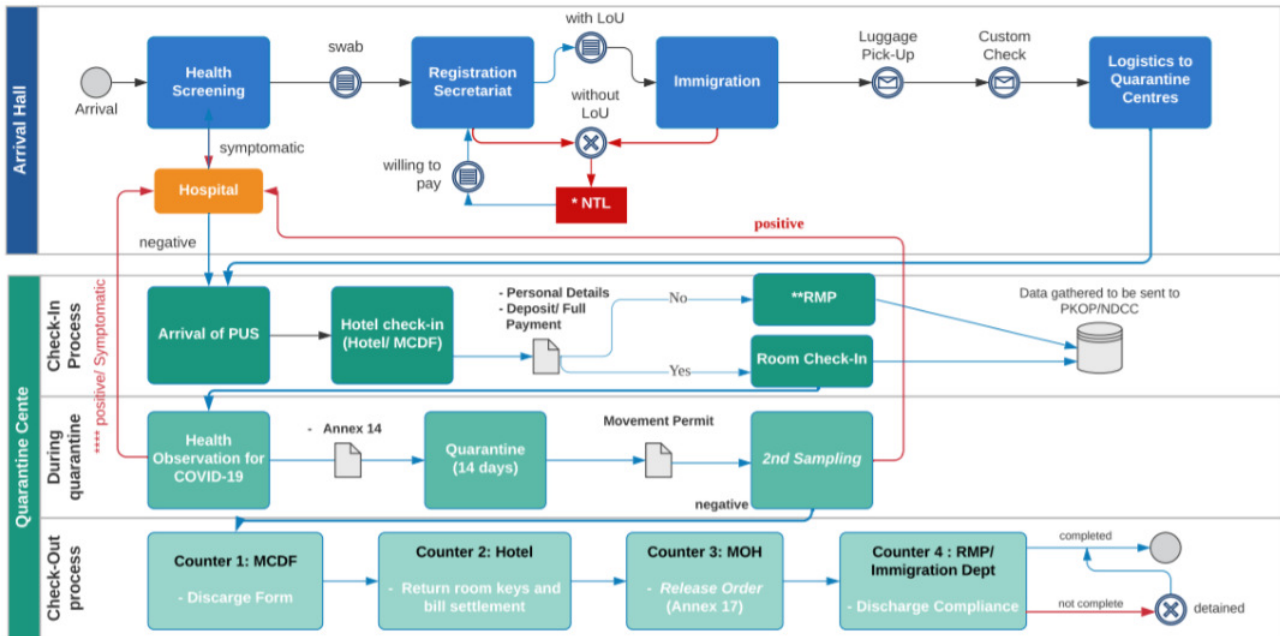
سَلَامَتُ هَرَارِي رَايَ عِيدِ الْفِطْرِ  
SELAMAT HARI RAYA AIDILFITRI

# CONSULAR ANNOUNCEMENT ON COVID-19



NADMA MALAYSIA

Quarantine Procedure Starting July 24th, 2020



## GUIDELINE FOR ENTRY OF MALAYSIA CITIZEN AND NON-CITIZEN

CATEGORY	ACTIVE PASS			PASS EXPIRED / NEW APPLICATION			REMARKS
	DG APPROVAL	SWAB TEST (BEFORE DEPARTURE)	QUARANTINE UPON ARRIVAL	DG APPROVAL	SWAB TEST (BEFORE DEPARTURE)	QUARANTINE UPON ARRIVAL	
Malaysia Citizen	X	X	√	NA	X	√	-
Permanent Resident	X	X	√	NA	X	√	-
Diplomat on Foreign Mission in Malaysia	X	X	X *Home Quarantine	√	X	√	Application through MOFA
Dependant to Diplomat Foreign Mission in M'sia	X	X	√	√	X	√	Application through MOFA
Employment Pass (Category 1) & Dependant Pass & Maid	X	X	√	√	X	√	Refer to ESD guidelines
Resident Pass-Talent & Dependant Pass & Maid	X	X	√	√	X	√	
MM2H Pass	NA	X	√	NA	X	√	Application & Approval Letter from MOTAC
Student Pass	√	X	√	√	X	√	Application through EMGS & Approval Letter from JIM
Medical Tourism (MHTC)	√	X	√	NA	X	√	Approval Letter from MHTC
Other Long Term Visit Pass (LTVP): • Employment Pass (Category II & III) & Dependant • Resident Pass • Temporary Employment Visit Pass (PLKS) • Professional Visit Pass (PVP / PLIK) • Dependant Pass to the LTVP Holders	√	X	√	√	X	√	-
Seafarers	X	X	√	NA	X	√	-
Pilot & Flight Attendance	X	X	X	NA	X	X	Operating Pilot & Flight attendance arriving as passengers but departing as operating crew must holds General Declaration (GD) for the operating flight

**\*Requirements:**

- Download MySejahtera online application on smartphone and complete all the necessary information
- Undergo a 14 days quarantine at Quarantine Station by following the quarantine procedures prescribed by the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) & Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Undergo the COVID-19 test at the entrance upon arrival
- Valid visa is required for countries that requires visa to enter Malaysia
- Malaysians & Foreign Nationals who exit during Movement Control Order (MCO) on 18 March 2020 are not allowed to return during MCO without approval from Director General of Immigration

# Consular Information

## EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA, BUCHAREST

No. 11, Strada Drobeta,  
Sector 2,  
020521 Bucharest,  
ROMANIA.

Telephone: +4021 211 3801

Fax : +4021 210 0270

Email :mwbucharest@kln.gov.my  
mwbucharest@itcnet.ro



[www.kln.gov.my/web/rou\\_bucharest/home](http://www.kln.gov.my/web/rou_bucharest/home)



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### Office hours:

Monday - Friday: 0830 hrs - 1630 hrs

Public holidays : Saturday - Sunday