

# سالم من جدة

SALAM FROM JEDDAH



## THE COVID-19 DIARY (PGS. 3 - 6)



## VISITS & MEETINGS (PGS. 7 - 10)



## EVENTS & ENGAGEMENTS (PGS. 11 - 13)



# FOREWARD BY THE CONSUL GENERAL

Dear Readers,



Salam Sejahtera.  
Salam from Jeddah.

It is with great pleasure that the Consulate General of Malaysia in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presents to you the first edition of its e-Newsletter for the year 2020.

The outbreak of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) has undoubtedly created an unprecedented global health crisis that has deeply impacted the way we now perceive our world and our everyday lives. The pandemic has seen the first half of the year in Saudi Arabia being under restricted movement. International flights, *umrah* and tourist entries, non-essential businesses, major events as well as schools and workplace attendance are still suspended; and the two holy cities of Makkah and Madinah still closed for *umrah* pilgrimage. These changes call for adaptive attitudes and responses to accept the new norms.

Despite new challenges, Malawakil Jeddah strives to provide consular assistance to Malaysians in Jeddah and the western region of Saudi Arabia, under strict practice of preventive and precautionary measures. As the number of new daily cases remains by the thousands, we are committed to ensure that the wellbeing of Malaysians here remain as our top-priority in this trying time. We hope that everyone remains vigilant and abide by the rules and regulations imposed. We are all in this together - #kitajagakita.

Stay safe and *ma'assalamah*,

*'Alauddin Mohd. Nor*

# THE COVID-19 DIARY

## Special Report



### TIMELINE

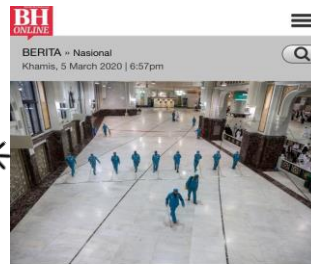
#### MEASURES TAKEN

#### MISSION'S RESPONSE

- 27 February:  
Banned international *umrah* and tourist entries.
- 28 & 29 February:  
Consular visits to the International Airports in Jeddah and Madinah.
- 2 March:  
Confirmed first Covid-19 case, a Saudi national returning from Iran via Bahrain.
- 4 March:  
Suspended *umrah* pilgrimage for all nationals and residents.
- 7 March:  
Allowed access to the Two Holy Mosques for non-*umrah* and *ziarah* rituals only.
- 7 - 15 March:  
Facilitated the coordination with *muassasah* and travel agents to ensure safe return of some 250 Malaysian.
- 8 - 14 March:  
Cancelled 2020 Saudi Olympics and suspended all sports competition. Banned social events, including funerals and weddings, and closed all education institutions.

### COVID-19 IN SAUDI ARABIA HIGHLIGHTS & EXPERIENCES

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Saudi Arabia had systematically imposed several preventive measures to combat the spread of the virus into the Kingdom. Having daily *umrah* pilgrimage, *ziarah* and tourist visits into the Kingdom, Saudi Arabia had already taken various precautionary measures even prior to the outbreak. (...cont'd)



Petugas pembersih memakai topeng muka perlindungan, berikutan coronavirus, ketika membersihkan lantai di Masjid di kota suci Mekah, Arab Saudi. -Foto REUTERS

**Arab Saudi kuat kuasa larangan umrah, ziarah Masjid Nabawi sejak semalam**

**250 jemaah Malaysia akan dibawa keluar Arab Saudi segera**

ALHAD, 8 MARCH 2020 @ 6:40 PM



FOTO hiasan.

# THE COVID-19 DIARY

## Special Report (Cont.)

### COVID-19 IN SAUDI ARABIA HIGHLIGHTS & EXPERIENCES

During the height of the pandemic, numerous Royal decrees were passed to impose, among others, travel bans, curfews, movement restrictions and hefty penalties for violators. His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud had also issued a Royal decree that medical attention with regard to Covid-19 are to be given to all citizens, residents and expatriates without prejudice; and not to penalise those who violates the immigration law of the Kingdom. (...cont'd)



Provided accommodation for stranded students from Egypt in Jeddah

Consular visit to the airports



### COVID-19 TIMELINE

#### MEASURES TAKEN

#### MISSION'S RESPONSE

- 15 March:  
Suspended all international flights.
- 15 March - 10 April:  
Consular visits and provided necessary assistance for Malaysians stranded in the Western region of Saudi Arabia.
- 16 March:  
Suspended public and private sectors' operations, except for essential sectors. Closed all malls, restaurants, parks and other recreational centres, except essential businesses.
- 19 March:  
Closed the Two Holy Mosques for public access. Banned congregations and prayers at mosques nationwide. Suspended all domestic flights and public transportations.
- 23 March:  
Imposed nationwide curfew from 7 pm to 6 am.
- 29 March:  
Suspended Jeddah Governorate inter-city movement. Extended nationwide curfew from 3 pm to 6 am.
- 2 April:  
Imposed full-day lockdown and 24-hours curfew nationwide, with restricted essential travel within residential neighbourhoods only from 6 am to 3 pm.
- 9 April:  
Transported stranded Malaysians in Makkah, Madinah, Taif, Rabigh and other provinces in the Western region to Jeddah
- 10 April:  
Special flight for 80 stranded Malaysians and 8 other nationals from Jeddah to Kuala Lumpur.

# THE COVID-19 DIARY

## Special Report (Cont.)

### COVID-19 TIMELINE

#### MEASURES TAKEN

#### MISSION'S RESPONSE

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <p>→ 24 April (1 Ramadhan):<br/>Relaxed nationwide curfew from 5 pm to 9 am.</p> <p>→ 23 - 27 May (1 Shawwal):<br/>Re-imposed full-day lockdown and 24-hours curfew nationwide.</p> <p>→ 28 May - 1 June:<br/>Relaxed curfew and public and private sectors resumed operations. Reopened businesses, mosques and domestic flights.</p> <p>→ 6 June:<br/>Re-imposed nationwide curfew from 3 pm to 6 am. Halted public and private sectors' operations. Suspended congregations and prayers in mosques.</p> <p>→ 21 June:<br/>Lifted all curfews and restrictions nationwide. Returns to normal.</p> <p>→ 22 June:<br/>Announced limited number of pilgrims for Hajj season.</p> | <p>7 May:<br/>Special flight from Jeddah and Dammam to Kuala Lumpur.</p> <p>15 May:<br/>Special flight for 234 students from Jeddah to Kuala Lumpur.</p> <p>7 June:<br/>Special flight carrying 105 Malaysians from Jeddah to Kuala Lumpur.</p> <p>To-date:<br/>Continuous consular assistance to Malaysians, especially for those wishing to return home.</p> |
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## COVID-19 IN SAUDI ARABIA HIGHLIGHTS & EXPERIENCES

The month of Ramadhan which is the most celebrated month for the locals was rather mundane under the strict curfew measures and Shawwal was only celebrated among immediate family members as required by the Government.

The determination and perseverance of the Saudi Government in combatting the pandemic is highly admirable. With its unique role as the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, it holds the responsibilities to ensure that the virus was not spread globally through those that came from all over the world for pilgrimage, Saudi Arabia had stringent measures in place. (...cont'd)



Taking fingerprint for birth registration of an *umrah* pilgrim's newborn stranded in Madinah



Assisted the funeral of a deceased *umrah* pilgrim stranded in Makkah

Donating food supplies for stranded *umrah* pilgrims



# THE COVID-19 DIARY

## Special Report (Cont.)

### COVID-19 IN SAUDI ARABIA HIGHLIGHTS & EXPERIENCES

The various curfew measures in place had restricted the people's movement which imposed further challenges in providing consular assistance needed. Nonetheless, the Consulate General of Malaysia in Jeddah had been consistent in ensuring the wellbeing of Malaysians residing in Jeddah and the Western region, as well as those who had been stranded due to the closed borders. On top of various travel advisories issued, the Consulate also reached out to those who were affected. For the special flights, the Consulate did not only facilitate their departures at the airports, but various measures were undertaken to ensure their safety and wellbeing were looked after prior to their departure.



**4** special flights in **April - June 2020**

**529** Malaysians flew home

**23** Non-Malaysians reached their destinations

**30 June** recorded highest daily cases of **4,387**

**3 July** confirmed cases surpassed **200,000**



# VISITS & MEETINGS

*8 January 2020:*

*YBhg. Dato' Abdul Razak Abd Wahab, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in his capacity as the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the OIC attended the Meeting of the Permanent Representatives of the OIC Member States to discuss the Strategic Plan for Development of Vital Sectors in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.*



*12 - 13 January 2020:*

*The OIC hosted the Second Meeting of the Open-Ended Ad-hoc Working Group to Elaborate the Draft Internal Regulations of the Women's Development Organisation (WDO). The meeting was attended by representatives from Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia.*

*20 - 21 January 2020:*

*Working Visit of YB Datuk Seri Dr. Mujahid Yusof Rawa, Minister at the Prime Minister's Department for Religious Affairs, Malaysia to Saudi Arabia.*

*YB Minister met with His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Saleh bin Taher Benten, Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah and His Excellency Sheikh Abdullatif Abdulaziz Al-Sheikh, Saudi Minister of Religions Affairs to discuss and Hajj and umrah matters and other bilateral relations between Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.*



*24 January - 4 February 2020:*

*Umrah Visit of YAB Ustaz Dato' Bentara Kanan Haji Ahmad bin Yakob, Chief Minister of Kelantan.*

# VISITS & MEETINGS

27 - 29 January 2020:

*TYT Dato' Abdul Razak, Ambassador of Malaysia/PR to the OIC participated in the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC Permanent Finance Committee.*



**WORKING VISIT OF YB DATO' SAIFUDDIN ABDULLAH, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA TO ATTEND THE OPEN-ENDED EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE OIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT THE LEVEL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DISCUSS THE OIC'S POSITION TOWARDS THE "DEAL OF THE CENTURY"**

3 FEBRUARY 2020

*YB Foreign Minister delivered Malaysia's statement condemning the so-called "Deal of the Century" - proposed by the President of the United States for a peace deal for Israel and Palestine. He also expressed Malaysia's readiness to play a constructive role in the OIC in making efforts to realise the two-State solution and reiterated Malaysia's longstanding support for the inalienable right of self-determination for the Palestinian people, and a just, comprehensive and final solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict.*

*YB Foreign Minister also took the opportunity to meet with his counterparts from Palestine and Turkey to separately discuss various bilateral issues of between Malaysia and the respective countries.*



# VISITS & MEETINGS

4 - 6 February 2020:

The OIC hosted the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs (ICECS) in Preparation for the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

The meeting was represented by Mr. Amizal Fadzli Rajali, KPS ORCD Division. Mr. Amizal also met with Ambassador Ali Goutali, Director of the Al-Quds and Palestine Department, OIC to discuss matters on mutual interests and future cooperation.



9 - 11 February 2020:

The OIC held the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) preparatory to the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers. The meeting was represented by Mr. Ahmad Kamrizamil Mohd Riza, SUB ORCD Division.

Mr. Ahmad Kamrizamil took the opportunity to meet with Ambassador Abdul Moiz Bokhari, Advisor to the OIC Secretary General to discuss on the OIC 2025: Programme of Actions. He also met with Dr. Ahmed Elkhodary, Director of Department of Strategic and Transformation, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to discuss on future developmental collaborations.



**YB DATO' KAMARUDIN JAFFAR, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA LED MALAYSIA'S DELEGATION AT THE OPEN-ENDED VIRTUAL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE OIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE THREATS OF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION GOVERNMENT TO ANNEX PARTS OF STATE OF PALESTINE'S TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN 1967**

10 JUNE 2020

*The meeting was called by the State of Palestine and was chaired by HH Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia in his capacity as the Chair of the OIC Executive Committee.*

*YB Deputy Foreign Minister delivered Malaysia's statement condemning the violation by Israel's unilateral decision to annex parts of the State of Palestine.*



# VISITS & MEETINGS

## Courtesy Calls



14 January 2020:

Consul General received a courtesy call by *Persatuan Mahasiswa Malaysia* Madinah. They were also debriefed by the Vice Consul of Immigration on consular matters, as part of the Consulate's effort to share on the Consulate's services available for Malaysians in the Western region of Saudi Arabia.



18 February 2020:

Consul General received a courtesy call by Mr. Eko Hartono, the newly arrived Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia.

# EVENTS & ENGAGEMENTS

24 January 2020 - The Consulate organised a **Bazaar 2020**, which gathered Malaysians from all over Jeddah and the Western region. Some 1,000 Malaysians attended the Bazaar and took the opportunity to taste various Malaysian cuisines that everyone has been missing.

The Bazaar was entertained by Rabbani, the Malaysian *nasheed* group who were in Jeddah on their promotional tour.

The PERWAKILAN Ladies also participated by opening a booth and Gotong-Royong at the Consulate Square as preparation prior to the event.



# EVENTS & ENGAGEMENTS

## 'Suatu Ketika' Screening for 13<sup>th</sup> AFF2020



## 13<sup>TH</sup> ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2020 (13<sup>TH</sup> AFF 2020)

Under the ambit of the Asian Consuls General Club (ACGC) in Jeddah, the 13<sup>th</sup> Asian Film Festival 2020 was held from 6 February to 5 March 2020. This year, five countries participated in the movie screening, namely India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines and Malaysia.

The Film Festival is a unique platform for cultural exchanges between Saudi Arabia and the Asian countries. Apart from sharing the latest cinematography experience from the 13 Member Countries of the ACGC, it also aims to showcase culture and values practiced in the respective countries.

On 21 February 2020, the Consulate General of Malaysia successfully hosted the screening of the film "Suatu Ketika" produced by Kash Pictures in 2019. The light-drama movie which revolves around a 'kampung boys' football team with a pre-Merdeka colonial setting, highlights the spirit of perseverance and unity which portrays the very essence of that binds a multi-racial, multi-cultural Malaysia.

The guests were also served with delicious traditional Malaysian delicacies prepared generously by the PERWAKILAN Ladies.

# EVENTS & ENGAGEMENTS

## ASIAN FOOD FESTIVAL 2020

On 2 March 2020, the Consulate participated in the Asian Food Festival held at the Consulate General of Philippines, Jeddah as the incumbent Chair of the ACGC.

The Asian Food Festival is one of the most anticipated annual event under the ACGC. As a form of gastronomic diplomacy, all 13 Member Countries participated in the one-day event to showcase their best cuisine for the attendees to try and taste.

The Consulate participated in the successful event by serving the traditional *kuih ketayap*, *kuih talam* and *bihun goreng* with the obligatory *teh tarik* demonstration. The PERWAKILAN Ladies also joined to support the team by providing interactive live demonstration on the making of *kuih ketayap*.



## HARI RAYA AIDILFITRI CELEBRATION

On 21 June 2020, the Consulate celebrated Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration on the last day of the Shawwal month and also the day that Saudi Arabia returns to normal. However, due to cautious measures to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the celebration was done in a moderate manner, amongst the members of the Consulate.

Prior to that, the Consulate had prepared a video montage of Hari Raya wishes for family and friends aired at Astro Awani.

The guests were presented with the traditional Hari Raya feast of *lemang*, *nasi impit*, *kuah kacang*, *rendang* and *kuih raya*; mostly prepared by the PERWAKILAN Ladies.

**#KITAJAGAKITA**



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF MALAYSIA, JEDDAH**