

Covid-19: Gov't sets up funds for victims, calls for donation

Malaysiakini

11 Mac 2020

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CORONAVIRUS | The new federal administration today has decided to set up a special fund to help Malaysians who are affected by Covid-19.

In announcing this, Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said Putrajaya is allocating RM1 million for the fund and expressed hope that the rakyat will contribute to it.

He said proceeds from the fund will be used to assist those who have lost their income or were affected financially by the coronavirus infection.

"The cabinet is also giving serious focus on Covid-19. In a moment, we will be launching the Covid-19 Fund," he told a press conference after chairing the new Perikatan Nasional government's first cabinet meeting in Putrajaya this morning.

"The donation is not only to assist the government but to help people who are infected by the virus so that their livelihood won't be compromised.

"We will give financial assistance to those who have lost their jobs or have had their income affected by being quarantined.

"So this is a form of humanitarian assistance to be delivered (to them)," he said.

As of 5pm today, Malaysia's Covid-19 situation saw the number of patients increased to 149 cases.

Those who are tested positive with the virus are required by the government to undergo a 14-day quarantine at designated government hospitals, while those who had been in close contact but not showing symptoms of the virus have to be placed under home surveillance.

The new coronavirus, which was first detected in Malaysia on January 24, is expected to hit the country's economy hard, especially for businesses and workers in tourism-related industries.

This had prompted the previous federal administration under Pakatan Harapan to formulate an economic stimulus package of RM20 billion to help cushion the impact.

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Source: <https://www.malysiakini.com/news/514207>