

PM chairs usual NSC daily meeting amid rumours of emergency declaration

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Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has chaired his usual daily National Security Council (NSC) meeting on Covid-19 today, a day after the cabinet reportedly approved a proposal to declare a state of emergency.

According to a post on Muhyiddin's Facebook page, the prime minister stressed on the need to establish a detailed mid-term to a long-term plan to protect the people's livelihood and sustain the economy, as well as to address the people's needs at today's meeting.

The post said Muhyiddin had also urged his cabinet members to be more focused on the war against Covid-19, to once again prove Malaysia's capability to combat the pandemic.

Furthermore, the prime minister was said to have issued a reminder on effective decision making, with every move only to be taken after thoroughly understanding its benefits, risks and impact to the public health and economy.

The daily NSC meeting on Covid-19 has been carried out via video conferencing since Oct 7.

Muhyiddin had an audience with the King at 5pm in Istana Abdul Aziz in Kuantan yesterday, where the premier presented several suggestions that came from yesterday morning's cabinet meeting.

Istana Negara in a statement this morning said the King would discuss with the other rulers on the suggestions he received from the cabinet yesterday.

The statement, however, did not give any details on the suggestions or if a proclamation of emergency was part of the suggestions as heavily speculated.

Critics of any emergency proclamation had argued that there are already sufficient laws in place to address the Covid-19 pandemic and that the move would open the doors for various rights abuses.

Muhyiddin's political rivals had also accused him of seeking to declare an emergency in a desperate attempt to save himself by suspending the upcoming Nov 2 Dewan Rakyat sitting.

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