

# 'NATION MUST MOVE FORWARD'

People must experience benefits of development, says Muhyiddin

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**A**LTHOUGH Malaysia has achieved success and made great strides since gaining independence 63 years ago, it must continue to move forward and transform into a developed nation, says Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said it was imperative for the country to progress for its people to tangibly experience the benefits of development.

Addressing the country on television last night from Stadium Merdeka in conjunction with the National Day celebration, Muhyiddin said the progress he aspired for the country transcended economic figures.

"It involves not only figures related to economic growth indicators, stock exchange index, domestic and foreign direct investments but instead the source of income and quality of life.

"Economic growth indicators will only be meaningful when the people have sufficient income, a comfortable home to live in, access to quality education and good healthcare, as well as a sustainable and safe environment."

He said not all Malaysians were fortunate. Some had to work multiple jobs to make ends meet while many did not have enough savings if they lost their jobs.

He said such woes were evident when the government was forced to shut economic activities following the implementation of the

Movement Control Order (MCO).

"That's why the first thing the government did was to introduce various forms of assistance to help the rakyat. The government had introduced Bantuan Prihatin Nasional, moratorium on loan repayment, special facility assistance for small- and medium-sized industries, wage subsidy programme and other assistance amounting to RM260 billion to lessen the people's burden.

"*Alhamdulillah*, the assistance to some extent helped ease the people's burden during the challenging time."

Muhyiddin said the decision to relax restrictions, allow almost all economic sectors to resume and roll out RM35 billion in aid under the Penjana Economic Recovery Plan was necessary to save the country from irreparable economic damage.

"*Alhamdulillah*, the economic sectors have become active with some 15 million people going back to work. Unemployment has also dropped from 5.3 per cent in May to 4.9 per cent the following month.

"I understand that several economic sectors were severely affected by the pandemic and that it will take some time to recover.

"If these trends in economic recovery continue, I am sure that the economy will recover faster."

Muhyiddin also said the Perikatan Nasional government under his leadership was an administration that prioritised the people's wellbeing and welfare.

"I want to stress that the Perikatan Nasional government



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin making a televised address from Stadium Merdeka in conjunction with the National Day celebration.

is a government that is *prihatin rakyat*. These principles have been manifested and reflected in the implementation of economic stimulus packages announced previously.

"*Insyallah* (God Willing), these principles will also be reflected in the 2021 Budget as well as all policies, initiatives and economic stimulus packages in the future. Although the government is in a difficult situation, the welfare of the people will never be neglected."

On Malaysia's 63rd independence anniversary, Muhyiddin said its significance could not be emphasised enough.

"This opened a new chapter for our country. After hundreds of years of being occupied, we retained our rights as a people with dignity. We are now able to decide our fate and the direction of the country without being shackled by others."

In line with this year's theme of "Malaysia Prihatin", he urged the people to embrace the spirit of independence by caring for one another.

"Care for our family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and the loved ones around us. Care also for our nation. Uphold its independence, defend its sovereignty, preserve its peace. *Insyallah*, this nation we love will forever remain independent, free and sovereign."

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