

PM: Make quick and firm decisions

By MAZWIN NIK ANIS
mazwin@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: A positive projection of Malaysia's economy is possible with quick and firm decisions to help in recovery efforts, says the Prime Minister.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said civil servants played a critical role in ensuring speed in making the right administrative decisions in the post-Covid-19 era.

"Whether this projection becomes a reality highly depends on our efforts, whether we can make right and quick decisions to help all sectors recover so that the national economy can grow," he said in his maiden address to staff members of the Prime Minister's Department.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia managed to control the Covid-19 pandemic earlier than most countries due to good practices put in place, which included the movement control order (MCO).

He said the government had rolled out initiatives to help the people and economy weather the pandemic storm, citing the RM260bil Prihatin economic stimulus package.

"We must not let bureaucracy and administrative issues hold us back and see countries still grappling with the pandemic have a faster recovery than us because we



Outdoor meeting: Muhyiddin delivering a speech at the monthly assembly with staff members of the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya.

are bogged down by bureaucracy," he said.

The World Bank forecast that Malaysia will be among the earliest countries to recover, with a growth rate of 5.6% by the end of 2021.

To this, the Prime Minister said the government hoped that this projection could be achieved, adding that procedures and processes should not hinder the country's economic recovery.

As such, he said the government was reviewing the civil service's way of working and decision-making process.

"We want to see where we can

reduce red tape and if certain powers can be given to heads of agencies and departments to make decisions," he said.

The Prime Minister said all hands must be on deck to help sectors recover from the effects of Covid-19 as quickly as possible as most industries and business activities came to an almost complete halt during the MCO.

One of the affected sectors is tourism and, according to the Economic Action Council, it would take four years for the sector to recover.

Muhyiddin pointed out that as a major contributor to the country's

coffers, with about RM80bil, things needed to move fast so that the sector could return to normal.

The monthly assembly of the Prime Minister's Department had been halted since March due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The gathering was held with standard operating procedure in place, with only three representatives from each of the 56 agencies asked to attend.

Watch the video
[thestartv.com](https://www.thestartv.com)



The Star
- 7/7/2020
Pg. 2