

PM: Don't take unnecessary risks

The Star - 31/7/2020 (p. 3)

Keep complying with SOP while celebrating Hari Raya Haji, says Muhyiddin

PETALING JAYA: As Muslims patiently celebrate Hari Raya Haji under the new normal, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin reminded those under home quarantine not to *ke sana ke sini* (go here and there).

"If there is someone in your household who is under home quarantine, do not let anyone come and visit your home. This is risky," he said in a special address yesterday.

Muhyiddin also urged Muslims to look deep into the meaning of Hari Raya Haji and to follow standard operating procedure (SOP) during the celebration.

He singled out SOP such as limiting the number of guests in the house and at the venue where *korban* (sacrifice rites) were to be performed.

"At the site where the animal is slaughtered, limit the number of people to not more than 20.

"Do not hold gatherings at the place where the rites are conducted.

"After the animal has been slaughtered and its parts divided, return to your homes quickly.



"When family members come over for a visit, make sure there will be no more than 20 people at any one time," he said.

He also told Muslim clerics and those working in the mosques to ensure social distancing was practised and that prayers would not take place in a congested environment.

"The lessons from Aidiladha serves as the guidance in facing the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We are reminded about the meaning of patience and endur-

ance when encountering life's trials," he said.

Muhyiddin said while Malaysia had successfully controlled the spread of the virus for now, the country was still not free of Covid-19.

"I want to remind everyone that we have not totally succeeded in the Covid-19 war. Malaysia and many other countries are not declared free of the virus, and we have also witnessed a slight increase in cases.

"As such, we cannot be complacent or negligent. We have to continue our efforts in breaking the chain of transmission," he said.

During his special address on March 18 to announce the movement control order, Muhyiddin had also used the same phrase to remind the public to stay at home and not to "go here and there".

The phrase has since become popular among Malaysians, even being incorporated in promotional campaign taglines and rap remixes.

Earlier in Tangkak, Johor, Muhyiddin said the government's success in managing various problems related to Covid-19 was due to

the sacrifices made by Malaysians.

He said in an effort to curb the spread of Covid-19, the people were willing to sacrifice by complying with SOP, including social distancing and staying at home.

"Until we find a vaccine for this disease, we are still not safe. Our situation is now under control, but there is still an increase (in the number of infections).

"Malaysia is recognised as one of the best countries (in dealing with Covid-19), with deaths (due to Covid-19) among the lowest in the world ... but in order to succeed in addressing this disease, we must make sacrifices," Bernama quoted him as saying in his speech at the handing over of cows for Hari Raya Haji sacrifice at Masjid Jamek Kampung Parit Zing in Bukit Gambir.

The livestock, contributed by various quarters including Tan Sri Muhyiddin Golf Charity, Al-Bukhari Foundation, Puncak Niaga and individuals, was handed over by Muhyiddin to the villagers, government agencies and state assemblymen's offices.

Muhyiddin, who is also Pagoh MP and Gambir assemblyman, said Covid-19 brought huge challenges to the government in managing the country's economy, especially to ensure the people were not badly affected by it.

He said the government had no choice except to reopen the economic sector but under a new normal situation, where almost 90% of economic activities were now back in operation.

When ending his speech, Muhyiddin cited lyrics from the song *Berkorban Apa Saja* by Tan Sri P. Ramlee, and called on all quarters to be willing to fight the spread of Covid-19.

The lyrics were "*Berkorban apa saja, harta atau pun nyawa, itulah kasih mesra, sejati dan mulia*" (Sacrifice anything, property or life, that is love, true and noble).



For more stories and photos: See pages 9, 13 and 14