

# RECOVERY PHASE TO START ON WEDNESDAY

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RMCO has more lenient restrictions, part of nation's Covid-19 exit strategy, says PM

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**M**ALAYSIA is shifting to the recovery phase in its fight against the Covid-19 pandemic with the implementation of the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO), which takes effect from this Wednesday to Aug 31.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the RMCO, which will replace the Conditional MCO (CMCO), would feature more lenient restrictions and was part of the country's exit strategy.

The government had implemented the MCO on March 18, which was replaced by the CMCO on May 4.

Speaking in a televised address, Muhyiddin said the RMCO would be implemented based on seven strategies, which include enhanced public health and border control, as well as the reopening of all sectors of the economy.

The other four strategies are legislation and enforcement, embracing the new normal, community responsibility empowerment, and protection of risk groups.

"These will be executed by the Special Ministerial Committee on the implementation of the RMCO, which is chaired by the defence minister (Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob).

"At the state level, these strategies will be implemented by committees formed by menteri besar and chief ministers."

Under the RMCO, the public, from Wednesday, would be allowed to travel interstate, except to areas under the Enhanced MCO, he said.

"Those who wish to visit their parents in other states will be allowed to do so, *alhamdulillah* (praise be to God).

"However, I ask that you make hygiene a priority.

"Wear face masks when you are in public places and avoid visiting congested areas when you return to your hometown."

Despite interstate travel and domestic tourism being allowed, the country's borders would remain closed for now, he added.

"After three months of not going anywhere, you can now travel with your families in the country."

He said as part of the more relaxed restrictions, Malaysians

could celebrate Hari Raya Aidiladha and conduct "qurban" (ritual animal sacrifice) activities on July 31, subject to the standard operating procedures (SOP).

He added that the government was fine-tuning regulations on congregational prayers in mosques and houses of worship, subject to the premises' size.

He said schools would be reopened in stages after seeking advice from the Health Ministry, which would make a more detailed announcement soon.

Almost all other social and business activities would be allowed to resume in stages under the RMCO, he said.

Businesses given the green light include barbershops, beauty salons, markets, bazaars, food courts, food trucks and food stalls.

"Commercial activities that involve transactions and trading outside business premises will be allowed to resume operations during the RMCO.

"Other permitted activities include visits to museums, indoor busking and self-service laundromats, recreational and filming activities, as well as fishing, including commercial fishing ponds.

"Meetings and workshop are permitted, (but are) subject to health protocols and optimum spaces available at the venue."