

# Tun M praises PN govt over handling of pandemic

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**PETALING JAYA:** Despite their differences, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has some nice things to say about the Perikatan Nasional (PN) administration when it comes to the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The former premier said he was particularly happy the ruling government had chosen to leave politicians out from the limelight, and instead let true professionals "run the show".

"I'm very glad to see that this government has allowed professionals to run the campaign against the Covid-19 virus," he said in a live YouTube session with Creative Cloud Community (CCC) yesterday.

"Had it been politicians, we would have been in grave trouble.

"Just look at how (US President) Donald Trump is handling the situation. Thousands have died.

"I think this is a time when politicians should take the advice of professionals or just leave it to them to handle," he added.

While Mahathir did not mention any names, Health Director-General Datuk Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah has won praises for his handling of the current crisis.

He was even regarded by a Chinese TV station - China Global TV Network - as among the world's three leading doctors in the fight to curb the spread of the coronavirus and for his handling of the pandemic.

Other than Noor Hisham, various government agencies in the frontline like the police, army and health practitioners have also been actively involved in the fight against Covid-19.

These agencies are also meeting daily to provide updates to the government.

Senior Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob appears to be the only politician who has been regularly featured in the media with updates on the pandemic.

Mahathir said the government also did well to impose the MCO at an early stage, which he said was very essential to keep numbers down.

On how the government could further assist the people, Mahathir said they should provide vouchers that can be used to buy daily necessities.

"Some of us are able to buy goods, but others can't because they are out of job and not earning money.

"The government can give vouchers, instead of money, which can be abused by some people to buy drugs and cigarettes," he said.

Mahathir added that this, in turn, would help stimulate the market and help keep smaller businesses afloat, as there would be cash flow. - by **Amar Shah Mohsen**