

PM allocates additional RM160m for 26 hospitals to contain Covid-19

PRIME Minister (PM) Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (*picture*) has announced an additional allocation of RM160 million to be channelled to 26 hospitals in the country to contain the second wave of Covid-19 outbreak.

Bernama reported Muhyiddin as saying that the RM160 million allocation could be utilised to purchase medical and non-medical assets.

"To help the Ministry of Health implement programmes to contain the spread of Covid-19 nationwide, we have approved more than RM259 million to purchase medicine, equipment and various other needs.

"There was an application for a further RM160 million submitted to the Finance Ministry. I will inform the finance minister to approve it in the quickest time possible as this is a crisis that is quite serious and (the approval) cannot be delayed," he told the state news agency and *RTM* after a briefing by Johor Health director Dr Aman Rabu at the Permai Hospital in Johor yesterday.

The PM's Department (Religious Affairs) has gradually disbursed about RM8.94 million financial aids to the registered zakat beneficiaries yesterday, six days earlier from the schedule.

Minister in the PM's Department Senator Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri said in a statement that the move is part of the ministry's initiative to alleviate the recipients' burden amid the Movement Control Order (MCO). Zulkifli said the aid,

The Malaysian Reserve
- 20/3/2020 Pg. 2



Pic by Muhd Amin Naharul

normally credited on the 25th every month, will be distributed in stages.

Zulkifli said he has also mobilised the #MusaadahCOVID19 mission to help *asnaf* and frontliners during the implementation of the MCO.

He added that the Federal Territories Islamic Religious Department (Jawi) through

its Jawi Food Bank, with a restaurant's cooperation, have also contributed food to the Covid-19 frontliners at the University Malaya Medical Centre yesterday.

Zulkifli said he will ensure that all contributions to the #MusaadahCOVID19 mission, to be carried out until next week, will reach target groups.

"This mission will be continued until next week and I will ensure all contributions reach the targeted group," the newly minted minister said.

The senator also encouraged and urged corporate firms to channel their contributions to the needy during this hardship period under their corporate and social responsibility initiative.

On the same development, the welfare payments to 500,000 recipients will also be made 15 days in advance to allow them to cope with the MCO.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Rina Mohd Harun said in a statement that recipients will receive the money from March 25, 2020.

"The ministry hopes that the initiative can help our targeted group to continue living a prosperous life during the restricted time," she said. — by AFIQ AZIZ