

MALAYSIA, TURKEY TO ADDRESS COVID-19

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PM says nations will collaborate to develop vaccine, medicines for outbreak

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MALAYSIA has expressed its interest to cooperate with Turkey in developing Covid-19-related vaccine and medicines.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the stand was taken during his telephone conversation with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday.

Muhyiddin, via a Facebook post, said apart from exchanging Aidilfitri greetings, they discussed issues pertaining to bilateral relations between the coun-

tries and how they could cooperate in addressing Covid-19 and the post-pandemic challenges.

He said they agreed that both countries should capitalise on each other's strengths in fighting the pandemic.

"I expressed sympathy and solidarity on the high number of cases and deaths due to Covid-19 in Turkey.

"I also shared Malaysia's experience in handling Covid-19, among others, the implementation of a series of Movement Control Order (measures) since March 18, which saw the number of infections and deaths declining, while the recovery rate now has exceeded 80 per cent," he said in the post yesterday.

Muhyiddin said they also discussed enhancing collaborations in various sectors, including trade, investment, tourism, higher education, medical and defence technology.

Erdogan, he said, highlighted the important role played by Malaysia in fighting for the Pales-

tinians, calling the nation to continue to be active on the international stage by strongly rejecting the unilateral action of Israel against Palestine.

This included the seizure of lands owned by Palestinians, he said.

"I have reiterated Malaysia's commitment to continue cooperating with countries that have the same objectives, which are to support Palestinians in freeing themselves from Israeli occupation and realising the aspiration to achieve an independent Palestine (state).

"We ended the conversation, which lasted about 30 minutes, with a pledge that all bilateral initiatives must be resumed as soon as the Covid-19 pandemic ends."

Muhyiddin ended his Facebook post with several hashtags — #jagajarak, #socialdistancing, #disiplindiri, #selfdiscipline, #penjarakansosial and #staysafe — to remind the people on the ongoing fight against Covid-19.