

# 'Nothing sinister about emergency declaration'

> Move meant solely to curb spread of Covid-19 says Muhyiddin

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has given an assurance that there was no sinister motive behind the declaration of emergency.

It was made for a singular reason: to curb the spread of Covid-19, he said in response to expressions of concern that have surfaced recently.

The sole rationale behind the declaration was to fast-track the necessary legislative measures related to the management of the pandemic, he added.

"This covers matters related to the use of private hospital assets, temporary land ownership, buildings or private hospital moveable property and to allow the use of private hospitals to treat Covid-19 patients.

"So, please be assured that there is no sinister motive behind the emergency declaration," he said in his speech at a dialogue session with industry representatives organised by the International Trade and Industry Ministry yesterday.

Muhyiddin reiterated that the emergency will not be used to violate human rights, private property and other legal rights.

He said Malaysia is a firm believer in the rule of law and will not behave in a manner that is derogatory to the legal principles that it holds dear.

"It is imperative that the business community, both domestic and international, understand this."

On Jan 12, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah proclaimed a Covid-19 Emergency, to be enforced up to Aug 1, as a proactive measure to contain the pandemic in the country.

Meanwhile, Muhyiddin said the battle against the virus is a shared responsibility as the government, the private sector, civil societies and individuals must come together and work hand-in-hand to combat the disease. - Bernama



Muhyiddin arriving for the dialogue session with industry representatives yesterday.