

DR M: TAKE PANDEMIC SERIOUSLY

We might end up like India or Brazil if we don't follow S.O.P strictly, says former PM

KUALA LUMPUR

THERE'S a case where one person managed to infect over 2,000 others, all because he or she did not practise self-control and from that (number), 20 have since died."

This was the strong caution from former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, reminding Malaysians to take the pandemic seriously.

In a special address aired on

Facebook Live yesterday, Dr Mahathir pleaded with the public to adhere to Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOP), especially during Hari Raya.

"The situation now is getting more pressing as this virus is transforming into other variants. These new variants are more infectious compared with the previous ones.

"Most probably, our daily Covid-19 cases will increase to more than what it is today. It is said that we could see more than 5,000 cases a day.

"We will have a problem if this happens because we won't have enough hospital beds as even now, the treatment for patients is overwhelming," he said.

A medical doctor himself, Dr Mahathir said the reason Malaysia was seeing a surge in Covid-19 cases of late was due to its people's inability to follow the SOP.

He reminded the public to always observe physical distancing even when talking to family and friends, adding that discipline and self-control would be key to fighting this outbreak.

The authorities, he said, could only do so much to protect the people and that at the end of the day, it was up to the people to break the chain of infection.

"The only way to fight this is to protect ourselves. During Friday prayers, we observe physical distancing while praying but I notice that they don't do that when entering and leaving the mosques.

"I apologise, I haven't gone for (Friday) prayers because many people will come close to me and

ask about my health. I really appreciate the concern but they come too close and this worries me.

"It's the same with Ramadan bazaars. The number of patients skyrocketed from 2,000 to more than 4,000 because there's no social distancing. I admit it's difficult when we bump into friends.

"I feel sad because many have started preparing to sell food at the bazaars but if we prioritise that, many more will die. I hope you can be patient and at the same time the government should help the people who don't have enough food."

The Langkawi member of parliament also warned that without discipline and efforts to break the

chain of infection, Malaysia might see more Covid-19 cases.

Citing the surge in cases in India and Brazil, where hundreds of thousands were infected daily, Dr Mahathir warned that it was possible for Malaysia to suffer the same fate should its people continue to disregard the SOP.

"The system could not cope with the overwhelming daily cases to the point that their people started to collapse and die. This is not impossible for Malaysia.

"For this Hari Raya, there's no need to go for Raya visits. It will probably not be a good thing because the chance for us to get infected is there.

"For those who have yet to be vaccinated, you should make an effort to do so," he said.

On Sunday, Malaysia recorded its highest number of daily Covid-19 related deaths after 26 fatalities were reported.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad