



UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

SPEECH TEXT

YAB TAN SRI DATO' HAJI MUHYIDDIN BIN HAJI MOHD YASIN

PRIME MINISTER

PEOPLE'S PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE (PEMULIH)

28 JUNE 2021

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabaraktuh and Salam Sejahtera,

1. Allow me to begin my speech today, by raising the highest praise to Allah Subhanahu wa Taala that He is the Almighty and All-Knowing God of all things, as well as blessings and peace be upon the great Prophet Muhammad S.A.W.

2. Taking the ibrāh of the prayer that is often expressed in the 10th verse, Surah al-Kahfi,

"Indeed, we ask for mercy from Your side, O God, we ask for simplification in all matters and we ask for safety in everything".

Dear Malaysian brothers and sisters,

3. On 15 June, I announced the National Recovery Plan or PPN as a guide or roadmap for the transition out of the Movement Control Order in phases. This plan enables brothers and sisters to make plans in line with the Government's measures to fight COVID-19 and restore the country.

4. This gradual transition includes four phases and is based on three indicators: firstly, the number of daily cases of COVID-19, secondly, the rate of bed usage in the ICU ward, and thirdly, the percentage of people who have completed two doses of vaccine injection.

5. To date, these three indicators have not yet reached the threshold value for us to move from the first phase to the second phase. The daily cases of COVID-19 are still at a level of more than 4 thousand cases a day or equivalent to 12 cases per 100 thousand population.

6. Nevertheless, although the overall national threshold value has not been reached, the implementation of the first phase of VAT has shown some positive developments. The number of daily cases of COVID-19 has been below the level of 12 cases per 100 thousand population in nine states and at almost all states so far, over 10 per cent of its population has received at least one dose of vaccine injection.

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7. Taking into account the current situation especially the emergence of more violent new variants, the Government is aware that the capacity of the National COVID-19 Immunization Program or PICK needs to be increased so that more people can be vaccinated immediately. Meanwhile, the people's concern and safety agenda will continue, and the business sector needs to continue to be supported.

8. What I can promise today, even in a very limited fiscal space, the Perikatan Nasional Government will continue to be committed in prioritizing the well-being of all brothers and sisters. I will not compromise on the matter of preserving the welfare of the people and fighting COVID-19. Today, I would like to deliver some important announcements and insha-Allah there will be some good news for all.

PEOPLE'S PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE – PEMULIH

My dear brothers and sisters,

9. I know and I understand that many are facing financial problems at the moment due to losing their jobs and not being able to do business or work as usual. Eatery and restaurant operators incur losses due to the absence of customers. Homemakers and contract workers lose income because the non-critical construction sector is not allowed to operate. So are the owners of barbershops, clothing stores, car washes, night market traders and others who cannot do business. Many individuals, companies and businesses are affected because their sectors are not allowed to operate.

10. Therefore, since the COVID-19 pandemic hit our country, the Government has implemented seven assistance programs and stimulus packages with a total value of 380 billion ringgit. To date, more than 200 billion ringgit has been channeled and benefited more than 20 million people and 2.4 million businesses.

The 2021 budget is worth 322.5 billion ringgit and there is still 100 billion ringgit left to be spent until the end of this year.

11. So, today, I am pleased to announce the implementation of the People's Protection and Economic Recovery Package or PEMULIH.

12. The total value of the PEMULIH package is 150 billion ringgit, including the Government's direct fiscal injection of 10 billion ringgit. PEMULIH aims to provide comprehensive assistance to the people and focuses on three main focuses, namely Continuing the People's Concern Agenda, Supporting Business and Improving Vaccination.

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FIRST FOCUS: CONTINUING THE PEOPLE'S CARING AGENDA

Dear brothers and sisters,

13. In line with the Government's commitment to pursue the people's concern agenda, I am pleased to announce that until the end of this year, The Government will channel Cash Assistance directly to the people amounting to 10 billion ringgit. This direct Cash Assistance includes:

14. First, Bantuan Prihatin Rakyat or BPR. During the last PEMERKASA Tambahan announcement, the Government agreed to provide an additional payment for the ACA of up to 500 ringgit in July and the payment will be made in stages starting tomorrow, June 29. Meanwhile, the third phase of the ACA with an assistance rate of between 100 to 1,400 ringgit will be paid in September. September will also involve payments on ACA appeal cases. In total, the value of the ACA until the end of the year was 4.9 billion ringgit.

15. Secondly, to ensure that the people receive assistance in the coming months until the end of 2021, I am pleased to announce the provision of Special Assistance COVID-19 or BKC with the following rates and categories:

- First, hardcore poor households will receive assistance of 500 ringgit in August, 500 ringgit in November, and 300 ringgit in December. While single individuals in the hardcore poor category will receive assistance of 200 ringgit in August and 300 ringgit in November;
- Second, B40 category households will receive assistance of 500 ringgit in August and 300 ringgit in December. While singles in the B40 category will receive assistance of 200 ringgit in August; and
- Third, M40 category households also enjoy assistance of 250 ringgit, while singles in the M40 category will receive 100 ringgit in August.
- In total, this special BKC grant is expected to benefit more than 11 million households and individuals of senior citizens and singles with an allocation of 4.6 billion ringgit.

16. **The third is Income Loss Assistance.** In October, a total of 500 ringgit will be channeled to employees who lose income based on EPF or SOCSO data in 2021. This assistance is expected to benefit up to 1 million members involving financial implications of **500 million ringgit.**

17. With these three cash grants, for each month from June to December this year, those in need will receive the appropriate assistance. I hope this cash assistance can help you to continue to survive in the coming months, God willing.

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18. I am aware of the lives of many among the brothers and sisters who have been severely affected by more than a year of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Although millions of Malaysians have received cash assistance from the Government since March 2020 and many more have received government assistance in various forms, I understand that assistance needs to continue to be enhanced as long as this crisis continues.

19. Some are forced to borrow rice from neighbors, evicted from rented houses, eat once a day to bind their stomachs. Some borrow money from relatives and friends who are more able to buy kitchen items. All for personal and family survival. The government is trying its best to help ease the burden borne by the brothers and sisters and has never stopped helping as much as it can.

20. Furthermore, the Government will also extend the Job Seeking Allowance to non -SOCSCO contributors, especially new graduates, school leavers and informal sector workers. They can register under the MYFutureJobs platform and will receive an allowance of at least 300 ringgit.

21. In addition, the Government will allocate 125 million ringgit through HRD Corp to implement the Place and Train initiative under the Janapreneur program, especially for school leavers and graduates. This initiative is expected to open up opportunities for 30 thousand people to follow a skills training program with job security upon completion of training. MDEC will improve the existing programs, namely eRezeki and GLOW to help more than 20,000 job seekers in the gig economy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

22. The Government is aware that basic necessities are very important for the needy. Therefore, in addition to the existing Food Basket Assistance program, the Government has agreed to allocate 300 thousand ringgit to each Member of Parliament, including Opposition Members of Parliament, to implement Food Basket Assistance to the affected groups in their respective areas. In the matter of delivering aid to the people, I took the stance to set aside political differences.

Whether a Member of Parliament for the Government or the Opposition, all must bear a shared responsibility to help the people at a time when many are suffering. Use this allocation as much as possible to help the people in need in their respective parliamentary constituencies. Apart from that, 10 million ringgit is also allocated for the purpose of implementing Food Basket Assistance specifically for the Orang Asli community.

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23. The Government is committed to helping the people alleviate the cost of living burden. We will continue the policy of controlling the price of essential goods. Despite rising global commodity prices, the Government will continue to maintain retail prices for RON95 petrol, diesel and LPG which are expected to involve subsidies in excess of six billion ringgit this year. Next, to address the issue of rising prices for 1 kilogram to 5 kilogram bottles of cooking oil, the Government will implement a Price Control program based on the threshold value of Crude Palm Oil. Through this program, for example, the price of a 5 kilogram bottle of cooking oil can be controlled so that it does not exceed 30 ringgit per bottle.

24. In addition, in ensuring the supply of 1 kilogram polybag packs of cooking oil is guaranteed, the Government will provide an additional allocation of one billion ringgit. Through this additional allocation, the people can still buy a 1 kilogram polybag pack of cooking oil at a subsidized price of RM2.50.

25. Since this pandemic hit, we have heard a lot about social problems. These include mental and emotional stress problems. Government will expand psychosocial support through channels such as care lines. In addition, the Government has agreed to allocate RM15 million to non-governmental organizations or NGOs in assisting the Government to address social issues such as mental health, homelessness, and other social problems at the community level.

Ladies and gentlemen,

26. To alleviate the burden of monthly expenses of the people, the Government has agreed to provide a **discount on electricity bills** between 5 to 40 percent according to the use of electricity rates with a maximum limit of 900 kilowatt hours per month. Among them, a discount of 40 percent will be given to electricity consumption below 200 kilowatt hours per month and 15 percent for consumption between 201 to 300 kilowatt hours per month. In total, the people will get a discount of 346 million ringgit and this discount will be effective for a period of three months from the July 2021 bill.

27. In addition, for the affected economic sectors, especially hotel operators, theme parks, convention centers, shopping malls, offices of local tourism companies as well as travel and tourism agencies, the electricity bill discount of 10 per cent has been extended for another three months for bills for October to December 2021. By providing electricity discounts to domestic and non-domestic consumers, the Government will incur an additional cost of 1 billion ringgit.

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28. Further related to digital connectivity. Nowadays internet facilities can be considered a basic necessity utility for almost all daily activities, including for learning, working from home, purchasing goods online and Government and private services. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that the country's leading telecommunications service provider has agreed to extend the provision of 1 gigabit of daily data for free until 31 December 2021. This facility, estimated to be worth RM500 million, will benefit 44 million registered customers nationwide.

29. In addition, a mobile banking service was launched this month in Sarawak and Bank Simpanan Nasional will start the facility in Sabah in July. To make it easier for more people to access banking services, the Government will offer an allocation of 18 million ringgit for local banks to provide about 30 units of Mobile Banks in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, which will cover 250 rural areas and mukims. Through this initiative, brothers and sisters can access various banking services including account opening; storage, withdrawal and transfer of money; bill payments as well as digital banking.

SECOND FOCUS: SUPPORTING BUSINESS

My dear brothers and sisters,

30. The second focus in this RECOVERY package is Business Support. The government is aware that in the first and second phases of the VAT, most business premises are still not fully operational. Therefore, the Government will channel some form of assistance to ensure business continuity in both of these phases. Through this second focus, several approaches will be improved such as reducing employers' costs, supporting digitalisation efforts, providing financial assistance and tax incentives, providing financing facilities and continuing employment incentives.

31. The implementation of the Prihatin Special Grant or GKP has successfully supported business survival among small traders, especially those who are still not allowed to operate. In total, the Government has allocated a total of 5.1 billion ringgit through the GKP initiative. Recently, under PEMERKASA Tambahan, eligible recipients have already received their GKP 3.0 payment of 1 thousand ringgit about two weeks ago, and will receive another 500 ringgit in mid-July.

32. Understanding the difficulties faced by micro SME entrepreneurs at present, I am pleased to announce that the Government has agreed to provide additional payments under GKP 4.0 to eligible recipients of 500 ringgit to be paid in September and another 500 ringgit in November. 2021.

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33. The Government hopes that with this GKP 4.0 payment, about 1 million micro SME entrepreneurs, especially barber shop operators, workshop owners, bakery and cake shops, healthcare centers, etc. can reduce their monthly liabilities and help their cash flow, God willing.

Importantly, for micro -entrepreneurs who have yet to receive this assistance, registration will begin to open in mid -July.

Ladies and gentlemen,

34. Since the introduction of the Wage Subsidy Program or PSU, the Government has spent more than 15 billion ringgit to help employers pay salaries to around 2.7 million workers. In view of the positive response to this program, the Government has agreed to implement PSU 4.0 with an allocation of 3.8 billion ringgit which is expected to benefit more than 2.5 million workers.

35. Through the PSU 4.0 initiative, the Government will accommodate up to 500 employees per employer at a rate of 600 ringgit per employee for a period of four months, ie two months for all sectors in the second phase of VAT, and the next two months specifically for categorized sectors. in the negative list during the later third phase period.

36. If previously, the implementation of PSU was required with a salary limit below 4 thousand ringgit, I am pleased to announce that under PSU 4.0, no more salary limit conditions are set. This means, employers can apply for PSU 4.0 for their employees who earn more than 4 thousand ringgit.

37. Further, HRD Corp levy exemption for a period of two months will be given automatically to employers who are unable to operate during MCO. In addition, employers from the new sectors covered as a result of the extension of the Human Resources Corporation Berhad Act 2001 will be given an extension of levy exemption until 31 December 2021. This initiative is estimated to be worth 425 million ringgit.

38. Next, I would like to touch on job creation, training offerings and increasing employee income. In the first six months of this year, more than 243 thousand job opportunities were created. Under the National Employment Council or NEC, the Government will create employment opportunities and skills training placements through strategic collaboration between Government agencies and industry players.

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39. Through the Career Generator program by SOCSO, the Government has provided financial incentives to employers who provide new employment opportunities. To date, a total of 170 million ringgit has been channeled which has benefited more than 10,600 employers and 75,800 employees.

40. As this CareerGenerator is scheduled to end at the end of this June, the Government has agreed to extend the program and brand it as CareerGenerator 3.0 with some improvements. This includes reducing the salary eligibility limit from 1,500 ringgit to 1,200 ringgit for the Malaysianisation program to give more incentives to employers to replace foreign workers with local workers.

In addition, the employment contract period will also be relaxed from 12 months to 6 months for employees aged 50 and above, the disabled and ex-prisoners.

Ladies and gentlemen,

41. Furthermore, the Shop Malaysia Online program introduced under the PENJANA package last year has successfully helped more than 200,000 local entrepreneurs increase their sales through the e-Commerce platform with a transaction value of 1.8 billion ringgit.

42. Accordingly, to support the digitization agenda and encourage cashless transactions, the Government has developed the Small Entrepreneur Digitization Empowerment Program or PUPUK as a comprehensive initiative and agreed to allocate RM200 million for SMEs and RM100 million for SMEs.

First: Continuing the Shop Malaysia Online and Go-eCommerce Onboarding campaigns targeting more than 300 thousand micro traders such as bazaar traders, farmers markets, night markets and stalls as well as handicraft entrepreneurs to switch to online businesses and use e-cash systems;

Second: Increase the allocation of 100 million ringgit under the SME Digitalisation Grant to enable SME entrepreneurs to obtain matching grants of up to 5 thousand ringgit for the purchase of systems or digital platform subscriptions;

Third: Encourage the participation of micro SMEs to venture into e-commerce platforms through the Small Entrepreneur Digitization Empowerment program led by SKMM. Accordingly, strategic collaborations between digital platform providers, telecommunications companies as well as Community Internet Centers will be strengthened to help rural entrepreneurs engage in the digital economy; and

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Fourth: Empowering agri -entrepreneurs, especially in rural areas, to use the latest technology under the Agricultural Sector Digitization and Transformation Program. This program is to be implemented through the collaboration of MDEC and the Area Farmers Organization will identify potential farmers to switch to new technology platforms.

43. I also heard the complaints of artists, musicians, actors, theater activists, writers and production crews who were also affected by the MCO's condition which did not allow them to be involved in arts and performance activities at this time.

44. Therefore, to assist more than 8,000 arts activists and continue to support the local arts and creative industry, the Government will allocate RM100 million in the form of financing facilities and financial assistance. These provisions include incentives for the production of works and digital content, career opportunities, skills upgrading programs, protection contributions under SOCSO as well as the procurement of products for the purpose of production on television, radio and song creation.

45. In addition, the Government has received many requests for the financial assistance given to childcare centers and kindergartens last year to be reintroduced. In this regard, the Government will provide Special Nursery Assistance amounting to RM3,000 to more than 4,400 nursery operators supervised by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development as well as more than 8,000 private nursery operators supervised by the Ministry of Education.

46. It is hoped that with the provision of this assistance, it can be used, among others, for sanitation purposes and the purchase of disinfection equipment for ensure the cleanliness and safety of children placed in daycare centers and kindergartens.

47. The government also listened to the voices of canteen operators in schools that were still closed and caused them to lose their livelihoods. The government has agreed to provide financial assistance of 1 thousand ringgit to all registered canteen operators.

48. Furthermore, the Government is aware that sports industry operators and sports arena operators such as gyms, bowling, futsal and others are also affected and they can only resume operations as early as the third phase of VAT later. Accordingly, the Government agreed to provide one-off assistance of 3 thousand ringgit to them.

49. To assist the disabled who have lost their jobs or unemployment, and are not recipients of the existing Disabled Workers Allowance, the Government has agreed to provide financial assistance of 500 ringgit per person for a period of three months. For that, 30 million ringgit is allocated to benefit a total of 20 thousand people with disabilities.

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50. The Government will also implement the General Initiative Networking Program or JITU for the purpose of providing basic business capital assistance and guiding the disabled and homeless in business. A total of 20 million ringgit is allocated for this purpose and is expected to benefit more than 40 thousand individuals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

51. I would also like to inform that the Government will simplify the Government Procurement procedure as follows:

First: To allow price changes or variation of price (VOP) for work projects following a significant increase in the cost of building materials until 31 December 2021;

Second: To assist local G1 to G4 contractors to carry out small-scale work projects by lottery and quotation, with the use of new civil engineering and building work rate schedules as well as electrical work rate schedules; and

Third: To allow extension of time or extension of contract (EOT) of work projects or extension of contract period for supply and service contracts affected by the implementation of MCO subject to the contract clause.

52. Further to the 9 thousand MARA entrepreneurs who were also affected by COVID-19, the Government have agreed to allow them to apply for deferment of repayment of MARA business financing for a period of three months or rescheduling of financing repayment by extending the financing period to 36 months.

53. MARA will also extend a 30 per cent discount on the rental of MARA business premises for another five months until December 2021. More than 5,700 tenants are expected to benefit from this initiative. I recommend that more statutory bodies, GLCs and local authorities also provide exemption facilities and offer rental discounts, licenses or defer payment of monthly commitments.

54. As previously announced, owners of buildings and business spaces who offer a rental reduction of at least 30 per cent to traders in the period up to 31 December 2021 are eligible for a special tax deduction.

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Dear brothers and sisters,

55. As an ongoing measure to help the SME sector remain relevant and competitive, Syarikat Jaminan Pembiayaan Perniagaan Berhad or SJPP has increased the ceiling of **government guarantee scheme** funding under SJPP by 10 billion ringgit for 2021 to 36.5 billion ringgit. As of June 24, 2021, SJPP has provided guarantees for financing worth 33.4 billion ringgit to more than 45 thousand companies.

56. To further support the SME sector to access financing facilities and bounce back in the recovery phase, the Government will further increase the guarantee ceiling under the SJPP by 20 billion ringgit to a total of 56.5 billion ringgit.

57. In addition, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) is also committed in providing access to financial assistance to SMEs. To date, there is still an existing balance of 6.6 billion ringgit out of the total 25.1 billion ringgit provided by BNM for the benefit of new applicants. Through the package PEMULIH today, BNM agreed to add another two billion ringgit to bring the balance of the fund to 8.6 billion ringgit. It is hoped that this fund will be able to meet the various needs of SMEs and micro - entrepreneurs in easing the cash flow constraints of their businesses.

58. To further support micro -businesses, the **microcredit financing program** will be continued with additional funds of up to 1.1 billion ringgit. This easy financing will be provided by AgroBank and Bank Simpanan Nasional amounting to 500 million ringgit each, and TEKUN amounting to 100 million ringgit. This means, including the existing allocation for 2021 of 3 billion ringgit of microcredit funds are still available for micro -entrepreneurs.

59. Cooperative institutions were also supported during this difficult period through an allocation of RM20 million for the Cooperative Economic Recovery Intervention Financing program. The program enables entrepreneurs to carry out economic activities in groups through cooperatives, including marketing products through online platforms as well as encouraging the purchase of goods in cooperative stores.

60. In addition, the tourism sector was one of the most affected segments during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a driver or kick-start, when the country moves to the third phase of VAT, the Government will provide one-off assistance of RM3,000 to more than 5,300 registered travel agencies.

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61. The Government has also agreed to defer the payment of monthly income tax installments to companies and exempt taxes tourism and service tax to hotel operators until the end of the year. Next, as the country moves into the fourth phase of the VAT, the Government will consider appropriate allocations to rehabilitate and revitalize tourism activities.

Implementation of i-Citra and Bank Loan Repayment Moratorium

Dear Malaysian brothers and sisters,

62. It was this government that first proposed the implementation of the i-Lestari, i-Sinar and automatic moratorium programs to assist the people in facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been among the first countries in the world to introduce such an initiative. Alhamdulillah, it has a positive effect and has greatly helped the people's cash flow until now.

63. Therefore, to alleviate the financial burden of EPF members affected by MCO, the EPF will introduce a new withdrawal facility, namely i-Citra. Through i-Citra, a total of 12.6 million EPF members can make withdrawals of up to 5 thousand ringgit with a fixed payment rate of 1 thousand ringgit per month for a period of five months, subject to the member's total EPF savings. The implementation of i-Citra is expected to channel 30 billion ringgit to the people to meet daily needs. Members can start applying for the EPF withdrawal facility on the i-Citra online portal at icitra.kwsp.gov.my from 15 July 2021, with the first payment expected to be credited to the member's account in August 2021.

64. The fact is that this is a difficult decision as the Government is aware, this is the people's old age savings, and the i-Citra solution takes a middle ground between today's urgent needs, and reasonable returns for EPF members who do not require withdrawals.

65. Furthermore, I would like to announce a number of initiatives related to loan repayment deferral that can benefit all during this difficult period.

66. To assist education borrowers, I am pleased to announce that several Government agencies have agreed to implement deferment of repayment of education loans, among others:

First: provide a targeted moratorium for three months to PTPTN borrowers;

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Second: deferring the repayment of the Federal Education Loan under the PSD and the payment of compensation claims of Federal Scholarship recipients for up to six months;

Third: deferring the repayment of the MARA Education Loan for a period of three months or rescheduling the repayment of the loan with monthly installments as low as 100 ringgit for 12 months; and

Fourth: postponing the repayment of the Skills Development Fund Corporation (PTPK) loan for three months.

The total value of this initiative is estimated at 400 million ringgit and will benefit 1.6 million people.

67. Further, affected insurance and takaful policyholders can also apply for deferment of payment of insurance premiums and takaful contributions (opt-in) which will be extended until 31 December 2021. This initiative covers policyholders and life insurance and family takaful certificates. More than 1 million people are expected to benefit from this extension. The total value of premiums and deferred contributions is estimated at 2.6 billion ringgit.

68. Finally, of course in relation to the implementation of the moratorium on repayment of bank loans. During the announcement of the Additional PEMERKASA assistance package, the Government in collaboration with Bank Negara Malaysia and the bank has implemented a targeted loan repayment initiative. To date, more than 250 thousand eligible borrowers have been automatically approved. They only have to choose whether to get a moratorium for 3 months or a 50 per cent reduction in installment payments for 6 months.

69. The Government understands the concerns of the people at this time. Many are affected and this does not only involve the B40 group. I have heard and read many similar grievances from the M40 and T20 groups who are also experiencing increased dependents as they are also helping family members or relatives affected by COVID-19.

70. Therefore, I am pleased to announce, in collaboration with the bank, a six -month moratorium will be granted to all individual borrowers, whether from the B40, M40 or T20 group, and micro -entrepreneurs. There are no more conditions such as income reduction, no review of whether you have lost your job and no more documentation to be submitted for the application. You just need to apply and approval will be given automatically. This facility is also offered to the affected SME operators subject to review and approval by the bank. The application will open on July 7, 2021. The borrower only needs to apply and sign an agreement to amend the relevant loan terms.

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71. I hope that this moratorium initiative can to some extent assist individual borrowers and SMEs in managing their cash flow during this challenging period. However, I would also like to advise you to make the best use of this offer and if not urgent, do not make additional financial commitments.

THIRD FOCUS: INCREASING VACCINATION

Dear brothers and sisters,

72. The third focus of this government is accelerating vaccination programs. Statistics up to 26 June 2021 show that a total of 7 million doses have been successfully supplied to the people, comprising 5 million people. A total of 15.5 percent had received the first dose and nearly 2 million people or 6 percent had completely received two doses of vaccine injections.

73. Alhamdulillah, we have also managed to maintain an average vaccination rate of over 200 thousand a day in the past 7 days. In addition, a total of 16.3 million people have registered for vaccine supplies so far.

74. Looking at these achievements, the Government is optimistic that all the planned efforts are on track.

Accordingly, to increase capacity and expedite the provision of vaccines to the people, the National COVID-19 Immunization Program or PICK will be further strengthened.

75. Therefore, I am pleased to announce some additional initiatives that will be implemented as follows:

76. First: To expedite the PICK implementation schedule, a total of RM400 million is allocated to increase the country's vaccine supply. This means that the total supply of vaccines ordered by the Government is enough to cover 130 percent of the population compared to 120 percent previously.

77. The increase in the supply of vaccines, among others, is as an additional buffer stock and aims to start the vaccination process for 6.4 million adolescents aged 12 to 18 years. Children who will sit for SPM this year will be given priority.

78. I would also like to emphasize that the Government is closely monitoring and exercising strict control following the spread of the Delta Plus variant. It has caused some countries to re-record an increase in infections and had to re-implement movement control orders.

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79. Second: To date, the Government has opened a total of 341 Vaccination Centers (PPV) nationwide comprising 320 Public PPV, 13 Mega PPV and eight (8) IPT PPV. To increase the daily vaccination rate, the Government has agreed to open 29 new Vaccination Centers (PPV), upgrade existing PPVs, implement drive-through PPVs, Mobile PPVs and Home-to-Home Outreach programs with a total allocation of RM200 million.

80. For example, I have visited the MyMedic @ Wilayah Mobile Vaccination program at PPR Sri Johor, Kuala Lumpur which focuses on the elderly and homeless as well as the use of several mobile bus units to rural areas involving the Orang Asli immunization program and several drive-through PPVs in IPTA. Recently, I also had the opportunity to visit PPV OKU-pandu lalu OKU Sentral in Ara Damansara, the first company in the country.

81. Third: A few days ago, I announced an increase in the consolation fee from 50 ringgit to 100 ringgit per day for health volunteers who work more than 12 hours a day starting June 2021. In addition, this consolation fee is also extended to those working in fields other than PPV as in quarantine centers. I have also requested that PPV operate seven days a week to expedite the provision of vaccines to the people.

82. In addition, I am pleased to announce that the Government has agreed to adjust the rate of payment of special allowances to 14 thousand front line health involved in PICK from 200 ringgit to 600 hundred ringgit for six months starting July 2021. Both these initiatives involve an additional allocation of 200 million ringgit.

This provision is a continuing recognition to the services and contributions of our health frontiers who continue to fight for our beloved nation.

83. Fourth: MITI has coordinated the COVID-19 Public-Private Partnership Industrial Immunization Program or PIKAS as an incentive to companies and industries to use their premises as PPVs and conduct immunization programs for employees. The government will provide the supply of vaccines, while the company or factory will facilitate the related logistics. This collaboration is important to enable us to increase vaccination rates immediately so that ongoing transmission in the workplace can be better decided and controlled.

84. Accordingly, to encourage the implementation of PIKAS and reduce the company's liabilities, a total of 150 million ringgit will be provided. Under this initiative, among others:

- The Government agrees that employers registered under Perbadanan Sumber Manusia Berhad (or HRD Corp), can use the remaining current levy of up to 10 per cent for the cost of management and purchase of COVID-19 vaccine;
- The Government also agreed to provide tax deductions on expenses covering the cost of equipment and services for the provision of PPV by employers. In addition, tax deduction on COVID 19 contributions through community or charitable projects is also expanded to include contributions to PPV; and
- ☑ The government is willing to consider allowing the company to operate at full capacity if all employees have completed two doses of vaccine.

85. Fifth: To ensure that the vulnerable are not exempted from getting vaccinated, several programs at the community level will also be expedited. Among them, registration for vaccination as well as subsidy of up to 30 ringgit on the cost of taxi fares and e-hailing for the disabled and the elderly to facilitate the movement to get vaccinated on the day of their appointment.

86. The total value of this third focus is 1 billion ringgit.

CLOSING

My dear brothers and sisters,

87. I deeply understand the anxiety you are feeling at this time. My colleagues and I in the Cabinet are always thinking of the grievances and hardships experienced by all of you and finding ways to overcome them.

88. The Government continues to move, fight and work hard at all times, even within limitations, to ensure that the country remains on the right path of recovery and your destiny all continue to be defended. Despite being tested in every aspect, the Government pledges to continue to provide the best service for all of you.

89. I would like to emphasize that the Government always listens and accepts the views of all parties with an open heart, improves the government's delivery system, strives and strives to find a way out of this pandemic crisis. Believe me, the government will continue to help as much as it can so that our people and country continue to be protected.

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90. The vaccination program will be the key to our success against COVID-19. For those who have not yet registered to get the vaccine, immediately fulfill your obligations for our common good. Give full cooperation and also some time for the implementation of the National COVID-19 Immunization Program, so that this Rehabilitation Plan is successfully implemented. Protect yourself, protect all.

91. O Allah, O Rahman, O Rahim. To You we ask for help and You are the best protector.

Wabillahirtaufik walhidayah wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

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