

Unofficial Translation

Press Release from Istana Negara

Kuala Lumpur, 19 January 2021 - It is informed that His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibni The late Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah expressed hope for the frontline heroes and heroine to continue to persevere and remain strong in the fight against the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic that hit the country at the moment.

In expressing words of encouragement to all the frontliners, Al-Sultan Abdullah understands the great challenges they face at this time as a result from the sharp increase in daily positive COVID-19 cases that have reached to four figures continuously since the end of last year.

Al-Sultan Abdullah highly praises the sacrifices made by the frontliners for the safety of the people, in taking responsibility for curbing the Covid-19 pandemic as well as treating patients infected by the illness that can be fatal.

Therefore, His Majesty expressed hope that the frontliners' strong and fighting spirit, as the country's main line of defense since the beginning of the pandemic early last year, be appreciated by all Malaysians.

Indeed, the persistent efforts of the frontliners are relentless and continuously working in the field, health clinics, hospitals, laboratories and all health facilities, even behind the scenes, in order to ensure the health and safety of Malaysians should be commended and continue to be appreciated.

For the sake of duty, the heroes and heroines of this country are not only willing to risk their lives in order to carry the trust given, they have also to stay away from their families since transmission of this pandemic. They are now not only physically tired, but also mentally tired.

Al-Sultan Abdullah also expressed his sadness to see those who are still insensitive in their daily actions, especially to the adherence to the new norms, and self-discipline to curb the spread of the pandemic.

In this regard, Al-Sultan Abdullah calls on Malaysians to show solidarity and undivided support to the frontliners by working together, with self-discipline, in complying with all directives set by the government and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

His Majesty urged that this is the time for us, as citizens and Malaysians to set aside political, racial and religious differences, together showcasing the spirit of loyalty, humanity and identity to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hopefully with the support and cooperation of the people, Al-Sultan Abdullah expressed confidence that we are not only capable of flattening the curve of the daily Covid-19 infection once again, even able to ease the burden borne by frontliners. Insha-Allah, if we try and trust in Allah, we can break the COVID-19 infection chain in the country effectively.

Reported yesterday (January 18, 2021), the country recorded 3,306 cases of New COVID-19 infection. According to statistics, fifteen COVID-19 hospitals reported over 70% of COVID-19 (non-ICU) bed usage. In the Klang Valley, the consumption of ICU beds for COVID-19 patients at Kuala Lumpur Hospital and University Malaya Medical Center has reached 100 percent, while at Sungai Buloh Hospital 83 percent. The usage rate of ICU beds for COVID-19 patients in Perak, Selangor, Melaka, Terengganu and Sarawak, on the other hand, has exceeded 70 percent.

In relation to this latest development, His Majesty expressed his concerns over the increasing need for intensive care and the use of ICU beds for patients in COVID-19 hospitals, especially in the Klang Valley, as a result of a sharp rise in the new cases of this pandemic.

Due to the increasing need for intensive care and the use of ICU beds, critically ill Covid-19 patients have to be placed in other government hospitals and this could affect the treatment of non-Covid-19 patients.

Al-Sultan Abdullah also took this opportunity to invite everyone to jointly pray that the frontliners will always be protected and that all efforts made by us in the fight against Covid-19 are blessed and successful.

His Majesty also invited everyone to be with him to pray that the country will always be protected and will be free from this pandemic soon.

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