

Covid freeze

Movement control order announced by Muhyiddin to address spread of virus

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has declared that Malaysia will be placed under a nationwide movement control order from tomorrow until March 31 due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The order, the first in the country's history, was announced by Muhyiddin in a live broadcast over national television last night.

A total of 315 new positive cases of Covid-19 have been reported over the past two days, bringing the total in Malaysia to 553 cases.

Of this total, 511 have been hospitalised while 42 people have recovered.

Muhyiddin said the nationwide movement control order means that all

business premises have to be shut down, except for outlets such as supermarkets and grocery stores selling daily essentials.

He said all government and private premises will also be closed, except for those involved in essential services such as utilities, telecommunications, security (law enforcement) and defence, transport, postal services, fuels, broadcasting, banking, health, cleaning and sanitation operations and food supplies, as well as pharmacies, ports and airports.

The order also means all Malaysians will be prohibited from travelling abroad, and no tourists or foreigners will be allowed to enter the country. Those who have just arrived from abroad must undergo self-quarantine

for 14 days.

All public and private schools, including kindergartens, nurseries, residential schools and other educational institutions are also required to close. All private and public institutions of higher learning will also suspend operations.

All mass gatherings, including religious, sports, social and cultural activities will also be prohibited during the term of the movement control order.

Muhyiddin said the measures were taken to protect the rakyat from the spread of the virus but advised Malaysians not to panic and stay calm.

He added that the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry will ensure that the supply of groceries and healthcare essentials will be uninterrupted.

He also said the government will monitor the situation daily and the public may obtain more information on the issue via the hotline number 03 8888 2010 beginning noon today.



BUYING FRENZY... An unusually high volume of customers seen yesterday at a supermarket in Bandar Utama, Selangor. Similar crowds were sighted by theSun Team at various retail outlets in the Klang Valley. See Page 2. **HAFIZ SOHAMI/THE SUN**