

Govt efforts to contain virus, help people will continue, vows Muhyiddin

THE fight against Covid-19 has not yet ended. Apart from the government's efforts, whether the country will win the war against the coronavirus, which is in the recovery phase, depends on the awareness, attitude and practice of every citizen in the country.

As such, the government will continue with efforts to contain the pandemic while urging Malaysians to embrace the new normal, including adhering to the standard operating procedure (SOP) in their daily lives. Strict surveillance at the nation's entry points will continue. The government has also spearheaded efforts and cooperation with other countries to obtain a Covid-19 vaccine.

I pray that Malaysia will be protected by Allah (SWT) and be kept away from Covid-19. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all parties, particularly frontliners. We are very proud of the high commitment they have displayed.

Covid-19 is expected to affect the growth of the world economy this year and maybe in the coming years as well.

The contraction of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), or world GDP, and the uncertainty of economic powerhouses can result in less favourable prospects for the nation's economy.

Prihatin, additional Prihatin and the Economic Recovery Plan (Penjana) economic stimulus

packages have been introduced to revive the nation's economy. The initiatives, valued at RM295 billion, is equivalent to 17 per cent of the country's GDP. The total amount of these stimulus packages is among the highest in the world and among developing countries.

It is estimated that the stimulus packages can contribute about three per cent of the country's GDP this year.

Alhamdulillah, many people have benefited from the stimulus packages. Among the assistance: Bantuan Prihatin Nasional (BPN) amounting to RM11.14 billion that has benefited 10.6 million recipients, the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Account 2 withdrawals facility amounting to RM6.5 billion has benefited 4.5 million contributors, assistance to 2.5 million civil servants and retirees amounting to RM1.25 billion, and Special Prihatin grant amounting to RM1.63 billion has benefited 545,000 micro-enterprises.

There is also the Bank Simpanan Nasional's Micro Credit Scheme, amounting to RM323 million, which has benefited 9,375 business recipients, while Tekun Micro Financing Scheme amounting to RM193.6 million has benefited 25,768 recipients.

In addition, the RM8.73 billion Wage Subsidy Programme has benefited more than 320,000 employers and 2.6 million employees, while the RM10.07 billion Special Relief Facility to 21,240



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin delivering his speech at the investiture at Istana Melawati, Putrajaya, yesterday.

small- and medium-sized enterprises has been approved by banks involved in the aid programme.

To overcome unemployment, his majesty's government has implemented the Hiring Incentive and Training Programme, which involves payment amounting to RM10.5 million to 3,777 employers to recruit almost 13,000 workers.

Since the reopening of the economic sector in late June, 15.7 million workers have returned to work. Our economy has started to thrive and *InsyaaAllah* (God willing), with efforts and support of all parties, the economy can recover faster.

52.3 per cent, is domestic direct investment, while RM17.5 billion, or 47.7 per cent, is foreign direct investment. Apart from that, 141 projects or investment leads with an investment value of RM72.6 billion with the potential to invest in Malaysia have been identified.

To assist the people burdened with loan repayments, banks and financial institutions have been urged to provide a moratorium or deferment of payment of up to six months to borrowers.

At the same time, his majesty's government also ensures that the implementation of the economic recovery plan will not give a negative impact on the environment by ensuring that economic activities are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Apart from that, his majesty's government has also emphasised on digitalisation of Malaysia in various fields, namely the economy, administration, education and social.

Together with the country's administrative personnel, we are committed to returning the country to normalcy, where the people are free to move about, industries and businesses are able to run smoothly, agricultural production and commodities are harvested and sold, students return to schools and universities, and sports activities and leisure activities are allowed, among others.

All ministries and departments have been asked to review their respective laws, regulations and SOP to provide efficient and prompt service, especially during post-Covid-19, which requires speedy and responsive government administration. Focus will be on increasing domestic investment and consumer spending to boost the economy. Up to June, the International Trade and Industry Ministry, through the Malaysian Investment Development Authority, has been evaluating 725 manufacturing and services projects with an estimated total investment of RM36.7 billion.

Of the figure, RM19.2 billion, or

>> Turn to Page 4