PRESS STATEMENT
MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

**UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)
SITUATION IN MALAYSIA**

Current Status of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Who Have Recovered

6 March 2020 – The Ministry of Health (MOH) would like to inform that Case 24 has fully recovered and discharged well from Kuala Lumpur Hospital. Case 24 was successfully treated, all close contacts identified and any further infection relating to Case 24 successfully prevented.

Cumulatively, 23 confirmed cases have fully recovered and discharged well.

Current Status in Malaysia

As of 6 March 2020, 12 pm, a total of **28 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases (Cases 56 to 83)** were reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Centre (CPRC) MOH. They are all currently receiving treatment. Investigation and identification of close contacts for testing are currently ongoing.

Cumulatively there are now **83 confirmed COVID-19 cases** in Malaysia. They are amongst Patients Under Investigation (PUI), close contacts and evacuees of the Humanitarian Assistance missions. Of these, 65 are Malaysians, 15 Chinese nationals and three (3) of other nationalities (US, Japan and Italy).

Currently a total of 956 close contacts have been identified. Of these, 258 were close contacts to the cluster involving Case 26 have been identified and samples taken. From this cluster, there are now 18 confirmed COVID-19 cases; 70 individuals tested negative however they are all placed under the 14-day home surveillance (under the Observation and Surveillance Order); and 170 individuals have been successfully traced and awaiting test results.

They are all also placed under the 14-day home surveillance. **Investigation and contact tracing activities are still ongoing to identify the source of infection and to prevent further spread of the infection.**

MOH is conducting COVID-19 surveillance to detect sporadic and local cases in Malaysia through patients with influenza-like-illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARI) with no history of travelling to affected countries or contacts with confirmed COVID-19 cases. As of 6 March 2020, a total of 430 samples have been tested and none were found to be positive for COVID-19. **Therefore, currently there is no sporadic COVID-19 cases that have been detected by this surveillance activity**.

MOH also wishes to highlight that under the Code of Professional Conduct under the Medical Act 1971 (Amendments 2012) and the Medical Regulations, all medical practitioners must strictly ensure confidentiality of patients' personal and medical information, unless voluntarily revealed by the patients themselves. Therefore, MOH will continue to maintain confidentiality of patients' personal and medical information. However, MOH will continue to communicate critical information especially of public health importance.

Health Advisory

1. MOH wishes to inform that investigations are still actively ongoing by MOH personnel at all levels throughout the country in managing the COVID-19 infection in Malaysia. To address any concerns or to seek health advice, the public can use the virtual health advisory services or contact the National CPRC hotline.

2. Based on MOH's current assessment, the COVID-19 situation in Malaysia is still under control and in the early containment phase. Therefore, the public is requested to provide full cooperation to MOH for investigation, contact tracing activities and treatment of patients. **Close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases will be identified by MOH through the District Health Offices' teams. These identified individuals will be contacted for further investigation and testing**.

3. Organisers of public programs and activities are encouraged to conduct an assessment on the need to proceed as planned. Based on the

assessment, the organiser can then determine the suitability of continuing as planned. If the program or activity proceeds as planned, the organisers are advised to implement appropriate preventive and precautionary measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection amongst the participants (see Appendix 1).

MOH will continue to monitor the development of the COVID-19 situation. Investigation and contact tracing activities are still on-going, and the public will be updated on the latest development. Therefore, the public is advised to obtain the latest information on COVID-19 at MOH's website.

Thank you.

DATUK DR NOOR HISHAM ABDULLAH
Director General of Health Malaysia

6 March 2020 @ 5 pm

Precautionary Measures to Reduce the Risk of COVID-19 Infection During Public Events

Individuals	Organisers
• **If having symptoms of respiratory tract infection, please remain at home** to prevent infection to others, and avoid attending any public events. In addition, seek treatment for the symptoms. • **Keep a safe distance (at least 1 metre)** from individuals with symptoms of respiratory tract infection e.g. fever, cough, sneezing and/or sore throat. • Practice **good cough etiquette** – cover mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing, dispose tissue appropriately after use and wash hands immediately. • Practice **good personal hygiene** – wash hands frequently with soap and water, and always carry hand sanitisers.	• **Conduct screening for symptoms** and history of travelling to affected countries within the past 14 days from the date of the event – for all participants upon registration for the event. Those detected with symptoms of respiratory tract infection should be not be allowed to join the event and advised to seek treatment. • **Provide adequate hand sanitisers** at all strategic locations for the use of participants. • Constantly follow the latest development on COVID-19 and prevention and control measures recommended by MOH through their website: www.moh.gov.my and www.infosihat.gov.my.