



**MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
MALAYSIA**

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**DEVELOPMENT FUNDING FOR NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS  
TO FACE HEALTH EMERGENCIES AND OUTBREAKS**

The Ministry of Economic Affairs (MEA) is deeply concerned regarding the recent outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in China and other countries in the region. It has claimed at least 25 lives in China with confirmed cases of infection in the region. With the upcoming Chinese New Year holidays, there have been concerns over the risk of transmission with increased travels across neighbouring countries and potentially Malaysia.

In this regard, MEA will continue to ensure the country's preparedness in dealing with this outbreak effectively by working closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH) through development funding to enhance national preparedness to face health emergencies and outbreaks.

In 2019, MEA has approved the establishment of the National Centre for Disease Control (CDC) at a cost of RM500 million to prevent and control diseases, investigate outbreaks and public health threats. This project has been underway and is expected to be completed by 2023. Through the establishment of CDC, the role of the National Public Health Laboratory will continue to be strengthened to address epidemic threats to public health.

For 2020, MEA has allocated RM227 million for the purchase of medical and non-medical equipment for all health facilities throughout the country. In this regard, MEA will ensure selected hospitals and health clinics that have been identified for the purpose of screening of diseases will be adequately equipped in controlling infection, prevention and contact detection in potential areas.

We would like to also express our deepest appreciation to all security personnel and public healthcare workers for their hard work and sacrifice to combat this outbreak.

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**Minister of Economic Affairs**  
**Malaysia**

**24 January 2020**