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**PRESS RELEASE**

**STATEMENT BY YANG TERAMAT MULIA,  
DATO' SERI DIRAJA TAN SRI TUNKU PUTERI INTAN SAFINAZ BINTI  
ALMARHUM SULTAN ABDUL HALIM MU'ADZAM SHAH,  
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NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

**\*MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT AND COVID-19\***

In light of the current national and global concern on the outbreak of the COVID-19, MRCS is supporting the government's approach to contain the spread of the virus and at the same time focusing on preventive measures through public awareness messages and campaigns.

As we have all recognised that after weeks of the first reported case in Wuhan, China, on 22nd December 2019 the number of cases had drastically increased in several countries including Malaysia. According to the Ministry of Health, as at 20 March 2020, 1030 positive cases been reported out of that 940 cases in the country are undergoing treatment, while 87 cured and discharged and three (3) deaths confirmed. There are 3733 pending results from the lab and 9,113 negative results. To date a total 13,876 tested case.

MRCS had actively participated through its ambulance services in transferring cases to the government's designated hospitals and strictly observes standard medical procedures in handling such cases.

Between 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020 – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020, total of 23 cases were transferred to the Sg.Buloh Hospital for treatment by MRCS ambulance service staff. Our Medical Assistants were given appropriate training and guidance to handle the situation.

Currently MRCS Ambulance staff is providing support at Hospital Selayang. MRCS Institute is also providing training and awareness programs to all our members in 13 states and 3 territories. MRCS firmly believes that current measures will lead to elevation of public health and safety, and the eventual eradication of COVID-19.

Since 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020, MRCS with the assistance of our National Executive Board member YBhg Datuk Dr. Mohamad Alwi who is also the Head of Emergency and Trauma at Selayang Hospital has conducted four (4) training programs to all our ambulance staff, ICRC staff, to our volunteers and officials on the basic handling of the COVID-19 cases.

Part of the training included the right way to use the Personal Protection Equipment's. Similar training was also extended at other MRCS member states ie, MRCS Kedah on 6 March 2020, and MRCS Johor on 14 March 2020.

Campaigns were conducted by MRCS ie, health screening and awareness campaign at "Beatlemania Charity Concert" a joint event with Yayasan Sultanah Bahiyah held on 14-15

February 2020 and also at the Bandar Malaysia Open 2020 at Kota Permai Golf Club on 6-8 March 2020.

Health screening and awareness also was conducted at Pusat Transit Gelandangan, Jalan Pahang Kuala Lumpur on the 12 March 2020 and at Homeless Centre (Anjung Singgah) on 13 March 2020.

On 18 & 19 March 2020, DYMM Tunku Permaisuri Johor who is our Royal Advisor of MRCS contributed 200 KFC Dinner packs to all the health workers at the quarantine ward, Hospital Sultanah Aminah 2 (Permai) assisted by MRCS Health and Community Service Committee and volunteers. In addition to that, instant noodles, biscuits and drinks were also distributed.

MRCS with the support of the IFRC's Regional office in Kuala Lumpur will be implementing a work plan to address the communities at risk for a period of six months (February to July 2020) focusing on the areas of preparedness and preventions. These will cover trainings for staffs and volunteers in epidemic control (ECV) Training of Trainers; mobilising volunteers for dissemination of Health messages; preparing PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) for staffs and volunteers; distribution of Information Education materials (IEC) to MRCS States and organising workshops on lessons learned by IFRC.

It is our hope that with the implementation of the work plan for the community, volunteers and staff, we will be better prepared in addressing COVID-19 now and in the future.

I would like to call upon every single person in Malaysia to take appropriate measures in protecting oneself against the COVID-19 through basic up-keeping of personal hygiene. Strictly follow the advices and directives of the authorities being provided through mass media and social networks.

Being the auxiliary agency to the government, MRCS will constantly provide all necessary and immediate support through the existing arrangement with NADMA (National Agency for Disaster Management) when needed.

'Stay Safe Malaysia and stay at home'

For further details, please feel free to call MRCS National Headquarters at 603-2143 8122, email to [secgen@redcrescent.org.my](mailto:secgen@redcrescent.org.my) or visit our website at [www.redcrescent.org.my](http://www.redcrescent.org.my)