



Our Reference: MAP/YAB PM-0101/310320

31st March 2020

YAB TAN SRI DATO' HAJI MUHYIDDIN BIN HAJI MOHD YASSIN
Prime Minister of Malaysia
Prime Minister's Office
Main Block, Perdana Putra Building Federal Government Administrative Centre
62502 Putrajaya
MALAYSIA

Dear YAB Tan Sri,

BAN ON NGO'S DISTRIBUTING FOOD SHOULD BE LIFTED

I refer to my letter dated 24th March 2020.

I also refer to the statement and instructions by Defence Minister Dato Seri Ismail Sabri to NGO's to stop delivering food to the homeless and hardcore poor as he deems it as violation of the MCO. Instead he has advised NGO's to send their food items to the various centres that have been opened under the Peoples Welfare Department and the Ministry of Women and Family Development in each district.

I wish to state the following:

- a) My view is the Defence Minister is not sensitive to the needs of the downtrodden, the task and risks undertaken by these NGO's and the contribution made to assist government in the current crisis;
- b) NGO's undertook the task of identifying the hardcore poor and homeless. They have been in the business of dealing with this marginalized community upon their own accord without expectation to be rewarded;
- c) NGO's were the first to mobilise their machinery knowing very well the hardest hit people would be those who would not have the means to do their shopping in supermarkets to stock up;
- d) There is a serious lack in our system which has failed to identify all B40 community, the red tapes imposed and the timeline for registering them is not reasonable;
- e) Bantuan Prihatin Nasional B40 and M40 does not reach them until end of April and many in the B40 category are daily wage earners, single mothers and a large number of them are not registered in the system;

- f) The Welfare Department is short handed and our visits to many districts have shown they are manned by limited number of staffs and are clueless on the whereabouts of these poor segment of the community;
- g) NGO's have been working hard using their own funds to deliver food to the needy and now that the Minister has made an order, these poor, homeless and neglected communities are left to fend for themselves with no government intervention or an immediate solution of reaching out to the needy;

As such I urge YAB Tan Sri to immediately order the lifting of the ban on these NGO's and allow them to carry out their services to our beloved country. These NGO's should be supported further by the government to ensure they are protected and given the necessary medical kits as well as funding to empower them further to assist government help the needy at this trying times.

Yours faithfully

Senator Waytha Moorthy
President
Malaysian Advancement Party