



**PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT  
(PARLIAMENT AND LAW)**

**2020 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY VIRTUAL  
FORUM CLOSING ADDRESS**

**BY MINISTER IN PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT  
(PARLIAMENT AND LAW)**

**YB DATO' TAKIYUDDIN BIN HASSAN**

**10 DECEMBER 2020**

**YB Dato' Seri Hishammuddin bin Tun Hussein**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

**YBhg. Tan Sri Othman bin Hashim**

Chairman of Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)

**HE Mr Stefan Priesner**

United Nations Resident Coordinator for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei  
Darussalam

Salam Sejahtera and Salam Malaysia Prihatin to all distinguished  
guests.

1. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for inviting me to deliver this closing address at the International Human Rights Day 2020 Virtual Forum. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my utmost appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department (BHEUU), Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) and The United Nations in Malaysia (UNCT) for organising this meaningful event.

2. On 10 December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly officially adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration is an important milestone in the history of mankind as it recognises all human as being born free and equal in dignity and rights, regardless of their race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
  
3. I very much appreciate the theme of today's forum "**Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights**". This is particularly relevant as the world is faced with such unprecedented crisis that has tested us all in so many ways. It is indeed important for us "**to stand up together**" and face this pandemic in unity, helping those in need and the hardest to be hit especially the vulnerable group. It is also more important than ever that we stand up for humankind and uphold the very **principles of human rights** so that no one group affected by this pandemic is left behind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. The government has been managing this pandemic with a bird's eye view of all those affected and how problems can be mitigated.

This management also includes prioritizing the needs of the people by providing the necessary assistance and financial aid to those impacted by the pandemic through various initiatives under the economic stimulus package and Budget 2021. Socio- economic and legislative frameworks have been developed to assist the “rakyat” to cope with this unpredictable and volatile situation.

5. Whilst we are handling the situation, we also know that the current predicament may remain longer than anticipated. This is when we need to ensure that we comply with all rules and regulations and protect each other from the spread of this virus. We need to make adjustments and adapt to the new normal of living, working and doing business. However, this new normal should not compromising human rights and rights to a decent life. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all frontliners who are working very hard everyday to keep us safe valuing the importance of every life in our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen

6. I hope this forum has been a fruitful one for all of you, I understand the constraints of having a virtual forum as it may not be as

extravagant as we hope. Nevertheless, having a platform of esteem panelist and speakers who are able to share their experiences and knowledge is indeed a blessing.

7. Lastly, allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to all panelist and speakers, the organizing committee and all of you here today for your support in making this event a meaningful one. I humbly call upon each of us to stay united and continue our efforts in overcoming this national crisis. Stand up for human rights and let's move forward for a better tomorrow.

Thank you.

Prime Minister's Department

Putrajaya