Agenda Item 6:
Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Higher Education and Policy Impacts

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1. Entry Restrictions of Foreign Nationals

In light of the recent spike in Covid-19 cases since September, Malaysia has closed our borders and listed 23 countries as high risk countries.

- Borders are only open for returning Malaysians and foreigners with Malaysian family
- All foreign arrivals are required to undergo mandatory 14-day quarantine at designated quarantine centers (self-quarantine is no longer allowed)
- Start of new semester for all HEI has been suspended
- All foreign students’ intake has been suspended (in line with local students’ intake)
2. Class Style at Universities

MOHE is promoting new norms of teaching & learning as a measure to overcome COVID-19 as opposed to conventional method

Remote learning approach:
- Optimizing the use of **existing platforms** such as Massive Open Online Learning (MOOC), Open Educational Resources (OER), Flipped Classroom online, Google Classroom, Facebook Live etc
- Providing wider coverage of high speed Internet to facilitate online learning

Alternative student assessment:
- Autonomy for HEIs to conduct assessment via **alternative approaches**
- Flexible **academic calendar** for HEIs
- Development of **national level assessment** for common subjects/courses
- Adoption of **best international practices** on alternative assessment
3. Countermeasures to Date

(at government or university level)

MOHE has been providing aid and assistance to students stranded in the campus during the 1st lockdown and continued giving assistance for students to continue their studies.

**In-campus assistance**

- USD50 cash assistance
- Daily food (3 times)
- Transport back to their home

**Off-campus assistance**

- Collaborating with Telco for special package of mobile data for students (USD12 per student) for approx. 77,000 students
- Up to USD362 advance assistance to purchase mobile devices/software for selected students (B40)
- Providing wider coverage of high speed Internet to facilitate online learning
- Moratorium for students loan repayment of up to 6 months
3. Countermeasures to Date (continued)

Graduate Employability and Entrepreneurship

In 2020, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) produce a total of 292,738 graduates at various levels and field of studies. These graduates will find it tougher to enter the job market in this dampened economy due to the widespread of COVID-19 pandemic. The government has launched a program called PENJANA-KPT CAP (Career Advancement Program) with a total allocation of USD40 million. This program is under the wider Economic Regeneration Program focuses on 3 areas:

i) Targeted job matching and placement with industry

ii) Providing guidance and support to aspiring entrepreneurial graduates through micro-funding facilities and assistance

iii) Gig economy and freelancing
4. New and Better Normal of International HE

• Malaysia will continue to embrace online learning through our Massive Open Online Courses that was launched in 2014.
• To date, there are over 456 courses on offer by our public universities