

Dialogue with YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Special Advisor on Public Health to YAB Prime Minister

29th April 2020

On 29th April 2020, the Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) had the pleasure of hosting YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood at a virtual dialogue session themed 'The New Business Normal'. The dialogue which was moderated by KLBC President Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi, marked the KLBC's very first online dialogue session, precipitated by the nation's Movement Control Order (MCO). Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah who is Special Advisor on Public Health to YAB Prime Minister, was engagingly insightful and candid, and provided KLBC members and guests with a deeper understanding of the impact of the pandemic, and guidance on personal and business practices going forward in the new normal.

Following an introduction of Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah by Dato' Faiz, Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah opened the dialogue by sharing an overview of the coronavirus and Covid-19 disease including its genetic make-up and testing methods and availability, and the World Health Organisation's six key areas of consideration in the lifting of the MCO.

Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah spent approximately 45 minutes addressing questions from the participants which covered the following areas:

- a) Expectations of the "new normal" or "next normal"
- b) The Malaysian response to the pandemic and how it has fared in flattening the curve
- c) The timeline for the lifting of the MCO
- d) The need for better regional or international coordination to manage the pandemic
- e) Business recovery
- f) Community immunity data
- g) Containing the migrant workers cluster
- h) Risk management and co-existing with Covid-19
- i) Malaysian QR code
- j) Assessing close contact and interpretations of distance
- k) Re-starting more economic sectors and the re-opening of education institutions
- l) Sufficiency of test kits stock
- m) Food security as the next business of opportunity
- n) Mental health impact of Covid-19

Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah emphasised on the importance of risk communication and community engagement in the management of pandemics without a vaccine. She advised businesses to start looking at doing business differently and to create an environment and the infrastructure in enabling this, and for the workplace to have preventive measures to ensure a good working environment which in turn can manage the importation risk. Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah also stressed on the need for everyone to undertake their own risk assessment and to move forward using a risk management perspective and for businesses to institute a risk management approach in the workplace. In her concluding remarks, Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah

urged everyone to build their own risk reduction plans and even whilst we must be vigilant and put in place measures to protect our families and businesses, beating COVID-19 requires a whole of society approach, and compassion and kindness is key.

The dialogue was attended by approximately 70 KLBC members and guests.

**Prepared by,
The Secretariat
Kuala Lumpur Business Club**