



WAKTU BERBUKA PUASA



Imsak 05:46 AM

Maghrib 19:20 PM

Rumah Bersih & Teratur, Ibadah Saat Ramadan
Selamat Menyambut Ramadan Al-Mubarak

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TRENDING



Indonesia navy searching for submarine with 53 aboard



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Man falls to his death from third floor Suria KLCC shopping mall



1969 curfew was tougher



By Dzulkifli Abdul Razak - May 11, 2020 @ 12:06am

22



Soldiers putting up barbed wire along Jalan Pencala in Seksyen 4, Petaling Jaya, yesterday. The area has been placed under the Enhanced

THE nation has undergone almost two months of varying degrees of mobility restriction.

The partial lockdown is a unique experience that many will find it difficult to forget. Among them are university students, who were caught in a limbo when they were forced to stay on campus quite unexpectedly.

Thousands had to be quarantined for an initial period of 14 days, which was extended twice. New practices were introduced to break the chain of Covid-19 transmission.

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NATION Apr 16, 2021 @ 2:12pm
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NATION Apr 16, 2021 @ 9:10am



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Otherwise, boredom is quick to set in, followed by other potentially life-threatening tendencies as a consequence of prolonged self-isolation. This added to an already confusing situation, as no one had the "right" experience to advise on what is best.

Tensions began to rise, fuelling fear and anxiety.

Towards the end of phase two of the Movement Control Order (MCO), these tendencies were sounding an alarm that could no longer be ignored. Staying home and working from home are no longer as simple as they are made to be.

If that sounded grim, go back to nearly 51 years ago this week, specifically, May 13, 1969.



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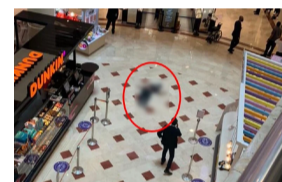
LEADER Apr 15, 2021 @ 12:00am
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Indonesia navy searching for submarine with 53 aboard



NATION Apr 21, 2021 @ 6:02pm

Man falls to his death from third floor Suria KLCC shopping mall



University students were caught in a limbo when they were forced to stay on campus unexpectedly. -NSTP File pic

This was the moment in the nation's history when a curfew had to be imposed to break the chain of violence that disrupted the peace and harmony among Malaysians, mainly in selected urban locations.

The writer was in his late teens then, but the experience that unfolded in front of his eyes had stayed with him until today.

It provided a very important lesson and reminder as to what responsible citizenry means in practice. Compared with the current experience, it is perhaps a mere glimpse of what May 13, 1969, represented – a total lockdown.

Democracy was suspended to give way to the National Operation Council, or Majlis Gerakan Negara (Mageran), with an emphasis on the nation's



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government from 1969 to 1971.

As the writer was then staying a stone's throw away from the district police station, he could not miss the flurry of activity.

From time to time, ambulances were seen rushing in and out. Once in a while, tow trucks would pull in wrecks or burned vehicles into the police station, presumably as a result of violence that had taken place.

Otherwise, other experiences were rather similar, but the execution was more rigid, restrictive and uncompromising.

Fake news, though it was known as that then, was prevalent, but sporadic in the absence of social media.

The restoration of law and order was gradually achieved although the curfew continued in some red areas, while it was scaled back for others.

By February 1971, parliamentary rule had been reinstated. Peace was eventually restored.

However, allegedly, the proclamation of emergency and the act enacted (Emergency Ordinance 1969) were not revoked.

That said, from a casual observer's standpoint, most of the post-May 1969 generation seemed to have a low tolerance to MCO.

Many found it intolerable. As a generation brought up with greater flexibility and freedom in their life as well as choices, the reaction is perhaps understandable. Meaning to say that the Mageran-style of control, which was far more draconian, would have had a more negative impact on them. And it lasted for a longer period too – 18 months.

Simply put, as citizens of this beloved country, do not take for granted anything that can disrupt its wellbeing.

Social solidarity, not distancing, must, therefore, be the main agenda to safeguard the country's future. There can be no other way than #kitajagakita, with or without Covid-19.

The writer, an NST columnist for more than 20 years, is the International Islamic University Malaysia rector

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the New Straits Times

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NATION Oct 24, 2020 @ 12:59pm

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WORLD Jan 1, 2021 @ 9:55pm

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