

THEME: ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

TITLE: COMBAT COVID - 19 WITHIN LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

GEOPARK NAME: LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

MAIN BODY:

COVID-19 was first identified in early December 2019, and the first confirmed case in Malaysia was detected in late January 2020. To date, this pandemic outbreak already infected more than 2 millions people worldwide, and Malaysia recorded 5,182 (as of 17 April 2020) positive cases. Government of Malaysia has taken preventive measures drastically by imposing Movement Control Order (MCO) started on 18 March 2020 in order to break the pandemic chain. Langkawi was in the center page of media coverage since the outbreak COVID - 19, due to the arrivals of chartered flights and transit of luxury cruise passengers from the affected countries. Since January 2020, authorities have installed body thermal scanner at both entrances via air and sea. *Sultanah Maliha* Hospital; the only center with complete medical equipment that are ready to treat COVID - 19 patients in Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark. To date, Langkawi recorded 4 positive cases from 110,000 population, nevertheless all the 4 cases were recovered and discharged from hospital. When this article is written, there is no new positive case identified.

#### 1) LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK (LUGGP) CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EXERCISE

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp) has join forces with office of Member of Parliament and other NGO under the umbrella of corporate social responsibility during the period of Movement Control Order (MCO). LUGGp has donated raw materials in term of food to frontline personnel who are always ready to serve in the interests of national security. The donation was presented by CEO of *LADA* to the Director of *Sultanah Maliha* Hospital.



## 2) 48 LANGKAWI TAILORS PRODUCE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN LANGKAWI

A tailor shop belonging to Madam *Long Lee Ket*, 68, was used as a hub for the initiative, where 48 tailors divided tasks of cutting and sewing the non-woven fabric, the essential material to produce head covers, gowns and shoe covers of the PPE. Once completed, three of Madam Leong friends would sort the fabric to facilitate the distribution process. “The material is supplied by *Sultanah Maliha* Hospital and the *Kuah* Health Clinic. “We will then cut the material and divide it into 500 pieces to produce head covers, gowns and shoe covers.” The initiative was mooted by Madam *Norhayati Hassan*, 39, who posted about her search for tailors on Facebook to undertake the endeavour. “I had no idea it would receive such a great response. I also created a WhatsApp group for tailors in Langkawi to get together and contribute for this purpose, I believed this is how Langkawi Geopark shows our close-knit community and strong solidarity during crisis like this. “Thank God, the response has been great although most of us do not really know each other,” said Noorhayati.



## 3) PUBLIC SANITATION OPERATIONS

Langkawi Municipal Office in collaboration with the Langkawi Fire & Rescue Department have carry out Public Sanitation Operations (disinfection works) at selected area of Langkawi residential. This activity is a precautionary measure to prevent Covid-19 as an old adage of an ounce of prevention worth a pound of cure. Local authorities in Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark also distributed free gloves and face masks to more than 60,000 locals.



#### 4) FOOD BANK CARE

The Food Bank Care project is one of the *Kedah State Zakat Authority (LZNK)* initiatives launched on March 26, 2020 to assist needy during the duration of the Movement Control Order. *Panorama Langkawi Sdn. Bhd. (PLSB)*, a Geopark Partner, presented zakat donation to Food Bank Care. Destitution families from rural village that are unable to find any income during MCO, can call Food Bank Care for assistance in term of food. The centre will provide food for the whole family.



#### 5) LANGKAWI TOURISM SURVEY

Langkawi Tourism Association, a Geopark Partner of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, has initiated a survey looking at the impact of the Movement Control Order especially for tourism front liners, and design possible actions that should be taken in order to assist Langkawi industry players ready for the new norm. This is the first time for Langkawi to shut down after 33 years operated as one of the best destinations in the world.