

Chinese community urged to cooperate in fight against virus

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KOTA KINABALU: The people, especially the Chinese community in the State, have been urged to continue to give their full support and cooperation to the government in its fight against Covid-19.

Making the call, Federation of Chinese Associations Sabah (FCAS) President Tan Sri TC Goh (pic) said, the people should also comply with the Movement Control Order (MCO) and to continue to stay at home, and to practice proper social-distancing when they go out in the public.

Goh also commended the State Government for its bold and forward-looking stance and measures in tackling the Covid-19 outbreak.

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“For example, Sabah was the first state in the country to suspend all incoming flights and tourists from China, on January 30, to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at its onset,” he said.

“Although the move drew criticism from certain quarters initially, it was later proven to be a necessary and appropriate one.

“Sabah was also the first state to roll out its own economic stimulus package to complement the stimulus package of the Federal government, which obviously has been helpful to the people of Sabah.”

Goh who is also the president of The Federation of Chinese Association Malaysia (Huazong) also commended the government for tightening the land and sea borders control through the security agencies, to prevent unscrupulous quarters from smuggling in illegal immigrants through the ‘rat lanes’.

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“Besides that, the State Government also commissioned Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to use its labs and personnel to conduct tests on swab samples to detect Covid-19.

“The government also designated the Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC) and certain hotels as quarantine centres, besides allocating RM2 million to convert the Likas Sports Complex into a makeshift hospital cum temporary Covid-19 testing facility which can accommodate 180 patients at one time,” he said.

Apart from announcing the State’s own stimulus package worth RM670 million on March 25, Chief Minister cum Finance Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal also during the recent State Legislative Assembly sitting allocated an additional fund of RM533 million, for the state’s Covid-19 aid package.

“All these reflected well on the State government’s sheer commitment and ongoing efforts to help the people to navigate out of the health and economic crisis, which is highly commendable and deserves to be supported by the people.”

Meanwhile, Goh also appealed to non-governmental and civil society organisations in the State to always be cautious and adhere to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) recommended by the relevant authorities, when giving out aids to those who are in need.

“This is necessary to minimise the risk of Covid-19 infection,” he said.