

## NOW, WHERE DOES MALAYSIA STAND?

Currently, Malaysia ranks 18<sup>th</sup> globally and scored above average in all of the areas concerned. Tellingly, Malaysia ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the responsiveness agility category and 2<sup>nd</sup> across emergency response operations' indicators. Kudos to our front-liners; health care professionals, public safety officials and others. This demonstrates the hard work being laboured to treat and curb the spread of COVID-19.

In comparison, Italy ranks 31<sup>st</sup> overall, 51<sup>st</sup> in the responsiveness agility category and 129<sup>th</sup> in emergency response operations. In fact, what's worrying is that less than 5% of world countries scored high enough to get into the top tier of functional emergency response operations' capability.

The USA and UK are ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall respectively. They are also ranked high with excellent scores in response and emergency response operations' categories. Yet, judging by these countries' news cycles, death count and infection rise, they are not better off than lesser countries.

According to JP Morgan, as of March-end, Malaysia's reported mortality rate was 0.77% versus global average of 4.4%. This was attributed to the decisive introduction of risk control measures and border restrictions.

As you can see, the capacity to anticipate and prepare means nothing without the willingness to act. Anticipatory and preparedness capabilities will only take you so far. Above all this, there needs to be a strong desire and willingness to act and take advantage of this preparedness measure.

