

BERITA ONLINE

SIN CHEW DAILY

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Zhang Lide. China is unblocked! Are you happy or worried?



On Boxing Day in 2022, China announced an announcement that made the world both happy and worried. From January 8, 2023, China will lift the epidemic prevention and control measures against the new crown epidemic, and will no longer take full-staff measures for entry personnel. Nucleic acid testing and centralized isolation, and cancellation of the control of the number of international passenger flights; at the same time, the review and approval of ordinary passports for Chinese citizens traveling abroad and visiting friends, as well as ordinary visas for foreigners, will be resumed. This means that Chinese people can go abroad, and we will be able to go to China too!

The Chinese tourists who are about to flock to travel around the world are "big customers" with strong spending power. They can bring rich foreign exchange income to the tourism-related industries of the destination countries, and give a boost to the tourism-related fields that have been plagued by the epidemic . Including our country. Don't you see that since the outbreak of COVID-19, the tourism industry has been like a pool of stagnant water, and tourism and related businesses have finally survived the predicament. As we enter the "endemic stage", the tourism industry has undoubtedly opened up, but the largest tourism target group - Chinese people have been unable to come here for a long time. Now we finally have Chinese friends, and we are all happy.

It's just that a country with a population of 1.4 billion suddenly stopped clearing after nearly three years, and the local situation is worrying. According to reports, the Omicron variant strain is wreaking havoc in China, and the epidemic data and information in China have always been opaque. Under the "zero-clearing policy", many Chinese people have not been "baptized" by the virus and lack natural immunity. Moreover, the CCP government only provides inactivated vaccines with low efficiency for citizens to vaccinate, and the vaccine immunity is also low. The Chinese authorities "suddenly" let Chinese people leave the country, and the destination country's statement that they are not worried is false.

Just after China announced that the border was unsealed, more than half of the Chinese passengers on a flight from China to Italy were diagnosed. Similar news made many countries startled and implemented more targeted anti-epidemic tests for Chinese entering the country, including our country.

If the data before the outbreak prevails, Malaysia is expected to welcome 3 million people to enter the country this year. What a considerable number, however, we cannot take it lightly whether the immigrants carry the virus or not. Once the number of imported cases surges, will it cause our number of confirmed cases to rise again, returning to the severe days of the epidemic? Is tourism economic income more important, or health and life more important? This is a problem that is not easy to solve. Everyone has a different opinion, no consensus.

Of course, viruses know no borders, and tourists or other types of immigrants from countries other than China may be at risk, and the coronavirus variant virus has already existed in the domestic endemic epidemic stage. Therefore, in addition to strengthening preventive measures for immigrants from various countries, we must not forget that we must do a good job in preventive work. After two years of epidemic prevention and blockade, do many people around us feel tired? When guarding against others at this time, shouldn't we check whether we have taken self-protection measures?

Although we have adapted to "coexist with the virus", our natural immunity and vaccination rate are relatively high, and more and more people have removed the epidemic prevention measures and are no longer afraid of crowded places, but we still have the disease risks, and will face the long-term troubles of the new crown disease. Protecting personal health is still a homework that everyone cannot ignore.

We extend our arms to welcome friends from all over the world to experience our infinite Asian charm. Basically, we should not cast strange eyes on friends from specific countries. We can warmly remind friends who come to abide by our epidemic prevention measures. There is no need for us to spread all kinds of fear with a hostile attitude. We don't need to treat the Chinese with colored eyes like some countries, and we must let the facts speak for themselves in everything. We also don't have to go so far as to ask the Malaysian Tourism Association to suspend the entry of Chinese tourists. Given the current situation, we have no idea when the number of cases in China will decrease to a number that we think is safe. It is important that national and national levels share genome sequence information with the World Health Organization (WHO) in order to have accurate data.

When the epidemic broke out in 2019, our politics was in a period of turmoil. Three prime ministers were changed. Muhyiddin was the prime minister who really faced the epidemic prevention and control. He had no experience. It makes people shake their heads. Fortunately, with the efforts of Carey, the Minister of Science and Technology who was in charge of vaccination, the vaccination rate can be said to be the best. Next, the Ismail government will mainly deal with the economic problems after the epidemic. Kerry, who has been transferred to the health minister, is also reassuring in terms of epidemic control. Now that China has opened up, we have also replaced the unity government led by Anwar, and the Minister of Health is completely new. Everyone naturally uses a microscope to examine the government's response measures.

The measures for foreign arrivals announced by Minister of Health Zaliha last week are basically sufficient. The Ministry of Health should pay more attention to the improvement of prevention and response measures for domestic communities. At present, the epidemic situation in China is in an uncertain stage, and it is the right way to adjust prevention and control measures according to the current situation. The Ministry of Health must always monitor the changes in the epidemic situation in China. Once the situation becomes serious, the authorities must make adequate preparations for epidemic prevention. This includes doing a good job in the inspection and quarantine work at the airport, and strengthening the handling process for passengers who test positive.

Many people will think that China's unblocking at this time is a test for Anwar's unity government. In fact, no matter when China unblocks, the Ministry of Health must do its part. Isn't it the government's responsibility to manage and take good care of the health and hygiene of Malaysians? We have been implementing the co-existence policy for some time. The technocrats in the Ministry of Health believe that they have accumulated a lot of experience. They will definitely be able to work closely with the new minister. This governance policy is used to lead the health field, and more importantly, our people must always cooperate with the government's measures to create a healthier and safer living environment.