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EU-MALAYSIA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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Unofficial Translation
Press Release from Senior Minister of Defense
Regarding the Implementation of Movement Control Order (MCO) and
Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO)

Dated 9th February 2021

INTRODUCTION

Ever since the country implemented the Movement Control Order (MCO), I realized that many are economically affected. Some went bankrupt in business and the unemployment percentage increased.

According to a report from the Department of Statistics Malaysia, the **unemployment rate increased to 4.8 percent or 772.9 thousand people in December 2020**. Nevertheless, with **this implementation of MCO 2.0**, we can **expect** that the **situation to be more worrying due to the limited economic activity** and limited public movement.

Even though the **population of workers** in the last month of last year **increased by 0.1 percent or equivalent to 19.3 thousand people to 15.22 million people** but with the situation today, we admit that it will record a decrease that will contribute to the social impact of the people directly.

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This is indeed expected by the United Nations through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) found that many households have not recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic crisis last year but if forced to face again with the same situation then it is expected to be worse. In fact, the unemployment rate among the heads of households will also be doubled.

This has a negative impact on the future planning not only for families but also to the country, even worse when affects the mental health of the people too.

Realizing this fact, the government slowly took over some approaches to loosen the economic sector. Why? Due to the survival of those affected by the pandemic COVID-19.

I was very affected... sad when reading the news report that there was a mother who had to steal just to get the necessities of her child.

Therefore, the government emphasizes on flexibility in micro businesses, those who depend on daily income.

Most recently, I received very positive feedback when the government gave flexibility to traders of night market, car wash and barber shops.

However, the permission given is not made arbitrarily because we are guided by the data obtained from agencies involved such as MOH and NSC. From the data obtained, the government also think that this sector is not a contributor to the COVID-19 cluster.

In addition, the government also takes into account that for those who work in this sector, they lost the source of income because businesses are not operating.

Permission granted is based on tight SOPs. But, if any new cases are recorded at the premises involved, their business operations will be closed immediately.

What I am expecting is the compliance with the SOP. Don't be careless and complacent when this relaxation is given. We must be aware that adherence to the **SOP is VERY IMPORTANT.**

We need to constantly practice social distancing aside from emphasizing personal hygiene at all times. This compliance is not for the benefit of anyone else but for the sake of **YOURSELF** and **BELOVED FAMILY.**

Opening of the Retail Sector

- On that justification, the NSC Special Session yesterday agreed to open the rest of the business retail sector to ensure economic sustainability in particular for small traders.

- These sectors are:
 - Clothing, fashion and accessories stores
 - Shoe Stores
 - Photography shops / photography services
 - Used goods stores
 - Flower shops / nursery
 - Handicraft and souvenir shops
 - Antique shops

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- Toy stores
 - Carpet stores
 - Creative content stores / creative industrial equipment
 - Outdoor shops
 - Sports equipment stores
 - Household appliances and kitchen utensils
 - Cosmetics, skincare and perfume shops
 - Tobacco shops
 - Vehicle accessory shops
 - Restaurant (dine-in)
 - Ar-Rahnu
- The **general SOP** for the opening of these sectors is as follows:
 - Disinfection and cleaning process will be carried out 3 times a day during the period of operation.
 - Require employees and customers to wear face masks while in the premises.
 - Customers with a temperature of 37.5°C and above are not allowed to enter the premises.
 - Hand sanitizer is provided at the entrance and ensured of its use before entering the premises.
 - Ensure controlled entry and exit of customers to/from the premises.
 - Ensure the attendance of employees and customers is recorded manually or using the MySejahtera application.
 - Social distancing of 1 meter while on premises.
 - Limit the number of customers on the premises at one time.
 - Encouraged to make payments electronically.

- For **clothing stores**, premise owners need to provide disposable hand gloves to customers to choose clothes.
- For **cosmetics**, skincare and perfume stores, only trading activities are allowed. Face to face negotiations as well as the use of cosmetic testers are **NOT ALLOWED**.
- For **photo shop / photography services**, the use of the studio only involves one client and photographer only. The use of filming studio (except passport, visa and license photo services) are **NOT ALLOWED**.
- This permission will **start on February 10, 2021**.
- The initial list that has been allowed can be referenced on the KPDNHEP site and NSC websites.
- If there are changes from time to time, the list will be announced by KPDNHEP.
- Food sales activities are allowed for dine-in, takeaway, drivethrough or delivery starting at 6.00 am until 10.00 pm.
- Dine-in is limited to two (2) people per table with social distancing of at least one (1) meter.
- Restaurant owners must also assign at least one employee for a permitted **dine-in** to:
 - Ensure controlled entry and exit of customers to/from the premises.

- Ensure the presence of employees and customers are recorded;
- Social distancing of 1 meter in premises
- Limit the number of customers in the premises at a time.

• **This order will be effective tomorrow, 10th of February 2021.**

My-Sejahtera application

- The special session also agreed to make it mandatory for the use of the My Sejahtera application in the areas accessible to internet.
- This is because it is found that customers do not record correct name and phone numbers and it is difficult to contact them in the event of detection of a positive COVID-19 case at the premises involved.
- This instruction is effective immediately.
- However, exceptions are granted for areas that do not have internet access, especially at rural and inland areas.

Creative Industry Sector

- The government has also taken note of the appeals from the creative industry to be allowed to operate again.
- After conducting risk assessments with various agencies in the PKP Technical Committee, the Government agreed to allow the creative industry sector to operate with strict SOP compliance and the list of these sectors is as follow:
 - Animation / Music Production
 - Post-Production in the Studio
 - Digital Music Development
 - Song Recording in Studio
 - Pre-Production Illustration
 - Filming in the Studio (includes drama, telemovies, commercials, documentaries, sitcoms, livestreaming, cultural, artistic and heritage recordings) without audience
- This authorization is effective on **10th of February 2021**.

Detailed SOPs can be found on the MKN website <https://www.mkn.gov.my/>

MFL, MHL and STL Training Programs

- The government also heard the presentation of Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS) regarding the approval application to conduct a Centralized Training Program for teams in **the Malaysian Football League (MFL), Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) and Sepak Takraw League (STL)**.

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- After conducting risk assessments with various agencies in the PKP Technical Committee, the government agreed to allow Centralized Training Program for teams in the **Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) and Sepak Takraw League (STL)** starting on **Monday, 15th of February 2021**.
- Training and movement place of athletes / players is controlled according to the sports bubble model. Accommodation of athletes / players must also follow the "Camp-Quarantine" SOP and Pre-set "Home-Quarantine";
- KBS has also presented a proposal for the opening of some sports activities in particular that are individual as well as without contact for the purpose of physical fitness and improve the standard of personal health. Final research is in the process and will be announced soon.

Termination of EMCO of Dungun Correctional Centre And Staff Quarters

- The government has previously implemented the Enhanced Control Movement Order (EMCO) at Dungun Correctional Centre and Staff Quarters, and is scheduled to end on 10th of February 2021.
- To date, MOH has implemented 128 screening tests and a total of **51 positive COVID-19 cases** have been recorded out of the total tests.
- However, MOH confirmed the remaining positive cases in this locality shows a decrease and there are no other samples waiting for a result.

- After conducting risk assessments with various agencies in the MCO Technical Committee, the Government agreed to **end the EMCO at Dungun Correctional Center and Staff Quarters, on 10th of February 2021** (tomorrow) as scheduled.

Termination of EMCO Kampung Orang Asli Batu 6, Jalan Pahang, Perak

- The government has previously implemented the Enhanced Control Movement Order (EMCO) in Kampung Orang Asli Batu 6, Jalan Pahang, Perak and is scheduled to end on 10th of February 2021.
- To date, MOH has completed **309 screening tests** and **27 positive COVID-19 cases** have been recorded out of that tests.
- MOH confirmed the last case reported was on 4th of February 2021 and there is no remaining screening sample waiting for a result.
- After conducting risk assessments with various agencies in the MCO Technical Committee, the Government agreed **to end the EMCO** at Kampung Orang Asli Batu 6, Jalan Pahang, Perak **on 10th of February 2021** (tomorrow) as scheduled.

Termination of EMCO of Marang Prison Detention Transit Center (PTP)

- The government has also previously implemented the Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) at the **Detention Transit Center (PTP) involving Officer Training Center Block Zone 2 and Zone 3 Prisons**, Marang Prison, Terengganu and is scheduled to end on 10th of February 2021.
- To date, MOH has conducted **76 screening tests** and **38 positive COVID-19 cases** have been recorded out of the overall screening tests.
- However, the MOH confirmed **all 38 positive cases have been placed in PKRC** and all close contacts were placed in separate cells and monitored for 14 days.
- After conducting risk assessments with various agencies in the PKP Technical Committee, the Government agreed **to terminate EMCO** at the Detention Transit Center (PTP) involving Officer Training Center Block Zone 2 and Zone 3 Prisons, Marang Prison, Terengganu and is scheduled to end **on 10th of February 2021**.

Compliance Operations Task Force

- Yesterday, a total of 3,147 **Task Force teams from the Royal Malaysian Police Compliance Operations Task Force (PDRM)** that consist of **14,476 members** had conducted **71,336 inspections** to monitor and enforce **SOP compliance** throughout the country.
- A total of **3,902 supermarkets, 5,797 restaurants, 1,735 factories, 1,396 public / agricultural markets, 3,933 banks, 954 government offices, 3,518 places of worship and 1,616 leisure places** were inspected.
- Yesterday, PDRM also **arrested 745 individuals** because of violating SOP instructions.
- From the total, **701 were compounded, 41 individuals were remanded while three (3) were guaranteed.**

Among the SOP default offenses include:

- **No social distancing (156)**
- **Cross-country / district without permission (151)**
- **Did not wear face mask (129)**
- **Failed to provide equipment / record personal / customer details (112)**
- **Premises operating overtime / without permission (57)**
- **Entertainment center's activities (13)**
- **Others (127)**

- For information, nightclubs, entertainment centres and karaoke centres are still not allowed to operate since the start of MCO and still remain on the prohibited list or negative list.
- Statistics of raids and arrests by PDRM involving entertainment centres including pubs and nightclubs during the MCO implementation period **from 18 March 2020 to 31 January 2021** are as follows:
 - o **Number of entertainment centre premises raided: 951**
 - o **Total compound issued: 9,587**
 - o **Number of catches: 4,666**

National Border Control

Operation Benteng involve;

- **Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM),**
 - **Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM),**
 - **Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (APMM),**
 - **Malaysian Immigration Department (JIM),**
 - **Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM),**
 - **Malaysian Border Control Agency (AKSEM)**
- Yesterday, Op BENTENG had successfully caught **three (3) illegal immigrants and confiscated six (6) land vehicles** in an operation held nationwide.
- During the operation, **135 boats / ships were also detected** in the country's waters through **11 sighting activities.**

- A total of **543 Roadblocks (SJR)** BENTENG operations were also implemented throughout the country involving the following breakdowns:

- o **Op BENTENG / PENAWAR (PDRM, ATM and RELA) - 487 SJR**

- o **Op BENTENG PDRM - 47 SJR**

- o **Op BENTENG AKSEM - 9 SJR**

- I also want to share the success of the implementation of Op BENTENG yesterday where the North Kelantan Zone Fort Op in the **MERPATI 8 Brigade Op Area** recorded success when **the 4th Battalion of the Border Regiment in Kg Lubok Stol, Rantau Panjang**, managed to seize **10 sacks of syabu weighing 402 kilograms that worth more than RM16 million.**

- The seizure was done around **10 am yesterday at the bank of Sungai Golok.**

- This is among the success and effectiveness of Op BENTENG which is implemented in an integrated manner with 19 enforcement agencies and national security forces led by ATM in strictly controlling the entry of illegal immigrants and cross-border crime at our national border.

COVID-19 Public Sanitation Operations

- Yesterday, a total of **88 sanitation operations** were carried out nationwide which included **41 Red Zones, three (3) Orange Zones, six (6) Yellow Zones and one (1) Green Zone.**
- From 30th March 2020, Ops Public Sanitation under the supervision of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) has carried out **15,779 sanitation operations** covering **146 zones namely red zone (96), orange zone (13), yellow zone (31) and green zone (6).**
- This operation involved **556 members of the Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (JBPM), 104 Local Authorities (PBT) and 80 JBPM machinery.**

Mandatory Quarantine

- Yesterday, a total of **321 individuals** arrived at all International entrances and all were quarantined mandatorily at quarantine stations nationwide.
- Cumulatively, a total of **111,927 individuals** have returned to the country through international border entrances from 24th July 2020 until 8th February 2021.
- From that number, a total of **6,241 individuals are undergoing compulsory quarantine** at 72 Hotels and 13 other premises including the Public Training Institute (ILA) as well as Private Educational Institutions nationwide.
- A total of **510 individuals were taken to hospital** for treatment while **106,017 individuals were allowed to return home.**

Compulsory Screening of Foreign Workers

- Yesterday, a total of **12,454 foreigners** underwent the COVID-19 screening test and out of that number, **94 were found to be positive for COVID-19.**
- Cumulatively, the Ministry of Human Resources (KSM) informed that a total of **332,216 foreign workers have undergone the COVID-19 screening test** involving **14,568 employers.**
- Of these, **6,375 were confirmed positive** for COVID-19 while another **325,841 were negative.**
- To date, a total of **1,322 clinics have been involved** with this screening program.
- As announced, the COVID-19 screening test is **mandatory for all foreign workers from 1 February 2021.**

Basic Goods

- Yesterday, the Enforcement Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) conducted **792 daily monitoring** on 11 types of supply of goods including **retailers (601), wholesalers (159) and manufacturers (32).**
- Overall, the supply of essential goods is sufficient and able to meet the needs of the country that is continuous and easily available.
- KPDNHEP Enforcement Officer has also conducted **2,206 special MCO SOP Compliance inspections.**
- Of the total, **2,185 premises complied with the prescribed SOP, six (6) premises were advised, two (2) were warned while 13 were compounded.**

Fake News

- As of February 8, 2021, a total of **281 investigation papers** have been opened by PDRM and the Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) regarding false news related to COVID-19.
- Of these, **144 cases are still under investigation, 35 cases have been prosecuted in court, 12 cases have been given warning notices.**
- For cases that have been prosecuted in court, so far **21 have been found guilty** while another **13 are in the process of trial.**
- The Quick Response Team (PRP) under KKMM has also issued a total of **426 denials** and explanations on false news related to COVID-19.
- The public is reminded to be careful before disseminating any content whose authenticity is in doubt. You can also be prosecuted if you spread things that are not necessarily authentic.
- Recently, an old video linking to my announcement related to SOP violation penalties was replayed to create an atmosphere of panic and public outrage.
- I want to emphasize here, the contagious video is an old video dated 14 April 2020.
- If there is any news in case of authenticity is in doubt, you can check or report the information to PRP at **03-8911 5103** or visit WWW.SEBENARNYA.MY

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Closing

Although the government has opened several more sectors, the public is reminded to always abide by the SOP and practice self-control to ensure the safety of themselves, their families and the community.

DISCLAIMER: The original document is written in Malay language. EUROCHAM Malaysia has translated this from the original Malay version at our best understanding and knowledge. Should there be any inconsistency or difference between the English translation and the original Malay version, kindly note that the original Malay document is the final governing and prevailing version.

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