

PRESS STATEMENT

20 May 2021

This press statement represents the view of the following associations representing the shopping mall and retail industries nation-wide in Malaysia as follows:

- Persatuan Pengurusan Kompleks Malaysia (PPK) (or Malaysia Shopping Malls Association) <http://ppkm.org.my/>
- Malaysia Retailers Association (MRA) <https://mra.com.my/>
- Malaysia Retail Chain Association (MRCA) <https://www.mrca.org.my/>
- Bumiputra Retailers Organisation (BRO)

In principle, we are supportive of and laud the initiative by Selgate Corporation under Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Selangor (PKNS) to speed up the vaccination of employees of Selangor businesses. Indeed, the speed of vaccination for the whole country leaves a lot to be desired and it appears we are far from our initial target to achieve the herd immunity by end 2021 or early 2022.

However, we are given to understand that the Selgate programme will charge businesses for the vaccinations which is supposed to be funded by and provided on a complimentary basis to both Malaysian citizens and non-citizens alike. This would be contrary to the original commitment and intent previously declared by our Federal government.

Furthermore, as announced, the Selangor Government has allocated RM100 million for this vaccination program and it is inconceivable that a further charge of RM380 per course has been proposed to be levied. The RM380 per course charge by itself appears to be exorbitant as the global cost of vaccines are widely published and known in the public domain. In this critical situation of saving lives and livelihoods, the main objective is to explore all avenues to source adequate supply and ramp up the vaccination and we are confident our rakyat should not have any qualms for the authorities to draw from the State's financial resources to achieve this. After all, the funds are from the taxpayers and expending for a just cause is acceptable. Having paid for the vaccines from the State coffers, it would appear there is a profit motive to further charge for the vaccination and especially what appears to be at exorbitant level. Instead of receiving accolades, the initiative now appears to have negative connotations as we are not made aware of the reasons behind the charges.

Furthermore in this situation where all businesses are still struggling to survive, any further financial burden imposed, especially when it is deemed unfair, will handicap many businesses who can ill afford same despite the Selangor government promising free vaccine for traders and small factories and small and medium industry (SMI). **We would support any parallel programme to increase the vaccination processes in our country but it must follow the original commitment and intent ie in principle, vaccinations must be provided free as promised.**

In our urgent earnestness to speed up the vaccination process, shopping malls and retail businesses have proposed that vaccination be carried out on-site for more efficiency. We are glad that the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) has heeded our plea and are currently discussing the programme with business owners to sponsor venues and provide any logistics for onsite vaccination centres. This will bring the vaccination centres **to** the business

premises, reduce any down time and be more productive. We fully encourage such joint efforts to hasten the vaccination program so that we can combat this pandemic and start to rebuild our business and the nation's economy.

We appeal to the Selangor Government to review the proposed need to further charge for the vaccination as the State has already wisely allocated RM100 million to purchase the vaccines due to its urgency and critical situation. This is the time to draw on our reserves to save the people, save the economy and save the country.

Thank you.