

26 May 2021

PRESS STATEMENT: ENHANCED SOPs DURING MCO 3.0 vs LOCKDOWN

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/>
- Bumiputra Retailers Organisation (BRO)

We commend our Prime Minister YAB Prime Minister Tan Sri Dato Haji Muhyiddin b Mohd Yassin and the Government for the wise and pragmatic decision to extend the MCO3.0 with enhanced SOPs instead of the otherwise devastating alternative of a lockdown. This is a win-win-win decision, a win for the rakyat, the business and economy. A lockdown at this time will definitely result in many more business closures with the direct results of further retrenchments and loss of employment. The retail and shopping malls industry directly employ 452,000 employees while the supporting and supply chain employees serving our industry comprises of millions, whose livelihoods will also be in jeopardy. Most businesses are at a precarious stage to try to survive and if a lockdown had been prescribed, at least 30%, if not more, of our direct businesses may close leading to at least 135,000 employees being out of job, followed by the multifold multiplier effect in the supply chain.

Although the numbers of Covid cases as reported are alarming, we need to understand that more tests are currently being carried out, contributing to this increase. With more tests, more cases will be identified. The numbers will not miraculously reduce immediately and it takes time to see the results of this restriction of movements to flatten the curve.

We wish to reiterate that the figures issued by the Ministry of Health indicated that the shopping malls including the less formal shopping areas contributed merely 4.78% of all covid cases and none have been determined as index cases.

Lockdown is merely a temporary relief. Ultimately, to overcome this pandemic, we need to vaccinate our population to the extent of achieving herd immunity. We should focus our efforts to accelerate the vaccination program, let us all enthusiastically register and turn up to be vaccinated to reach our herd immunity target as soon as possible and return to normal safe and care-free living.

We must support YAB Prime Minister to steer the extremely challenging path of saving both lives and livelihoods and ensuring the economy and employment are safe-guarded and to avoid the disaster if there had been another lockdown.

We must all remind ourselves that combating the pandemic is a COMMUNITY EFFORT which requires the close cooperation and collaboration of EVERYONE. The fight is not over yet in this pandemic, we must all work as a team to strive on and we must not stop until we win, so we call on all Malaysians to stay strong, stay safe and united in our common battle !

LIVES and LIVELIHOODS MATTER.

Thank you.