

23 May 2021

PRESS STATEMENT

UPDATED AND ENHANCED SOPS FOR SHOPPING MALLS effective 25 May 2021

We laud the Government for issuing the latest MCO conditions and SOPs which are effective and practical, taking cognizance for the need to balance between protecting lives and livelihoods.

We are glad that our views and proposals for stricter SOPs were seriously considered in order to combat the pandemic, yet trying to balance the negative effects on businesses. We are also supportive of restricting the trading time till 8 pm which will encourage people to go back home and discourage the "lepak" habits of our rakyat.

Our member malls have further enhanced and tightened the condition of entry to the malls where only those whose status are in the low-risk category as determined by MySejahtera are allowed in. In order to enforce this, we have advocated to remove manual book entries so as to avoid shoppers recording any false and inaccurate risk level status which we are unable to verify. Although we will lose the patronage of those not registered with MySejahtera, we believe it is better for the good of the wider community. Furthermore, we cannot risk any wrong data being collected by HIDE system leading to erroneously classifying a location as a potential Hotspot and hope the authorities will make equitable and judicious decisions on any future action.

Unfortunately, there are incidents of the enforcement personnel insisting that manual entry book be available and indeed, fines have been issued. We seek MKN to rationalise the conflicting SOPs and to inform all enforcement agencies that providing manual book entries is not compulsory but optional only where there is insufficient wifi coverage. We also seek the full cooperation of all shoppers to be self-disciplined and not to patronize malls when they do not have the 'low risk' status in their MySejahtera as the current SOPS require us to only admit those under the low risk category.

Imposing MCO by itself every now and then is painful for all and will not ultimately overcome the pandemic. We seriously need to speed up the national vaccination program to achieve herd immunity as soon as possible.

All of us must recognize that combating covid-19 is truly a community effort by all and for all including especially the rakyat to be even more self-disciplined, the authorities to take timely and wise directions as well as for the private sector to share their resources to collaborate in this joint effort.

Thank you.

LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS MATTER.