

28 June 2021

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **EXTENSION OF MCO 3.0 – NRP PHASE 1**

This is a joint statement by the following associations:

- Persatuan Pengurusan Kompleks Malaysia (PPK) – Malaysia Shopping Malls Association
- Malaysia Retailers Association (MRA)
- Malaysia Retail Chain Association (MRCA)
- Bumiputra Retailers Organisation (BRO)
- Malaysia REIT Managers Association (MRMA)

We are deeply disappointed with the extension of NRP Phase 1 despite the many submissions we have forwarded that the threshold to exit each phase is arbitrarily based on set absolute numbers of covid cases which is not based on science.

Furthermore, the rationale to have a blanket lockdown of the entire nation instead of by locality or sectors that are infected with clusters is totally overkill and unnecessarily causing further damage to the economy, especially punishing those sectors that have diligently complied with SOPs, achieving extremely low incidences. In other words, the 'safe zones' are being unfairly penalized by those in the hot spots.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) data reveals that retail and shopping sector including outside shopping areas contributed merely 0.8% of all cases in May 2021, even prior to the FMCO lockdown which started on 1 June 2021. This significantly improved and extremely low figures testify to the retail and mall industries' strict adherence to the SOPs and should not be unduly penalised with closure from operating.

We do not understand why our shopping mall and retail industry is again being unfairly dealt with this terminal punishment even though we have fully complied with all SOPs and maintained a good record but continue to be unjustifiably punished instead.

We earnestly believe that the extension of phase 1 and the nationwide lockdown need to be immediately reviewed taking into account the different infection levels of each locality. To avoid further permanent business closures and layoff of yet more employees, it will be judicious to allow all economic sectors which are not at risk to re-open immediately especially the shopping malls and retail shops including those in outside shopping areas, where the MOH figures showed merely 0.8% cases.

It is now imperative for the government to provide the shopping mall and retail operators with critically needed financial assistance to assist us to survive.

### ***LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS MATTER***

Thank you.