

25 July 2021

MEDIA STATEMENT

LOOKING FORWARD TO PRIVILEGES FOR THOSE FULLY VACCINATED – VACCINATION DIVIDEND

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)
- Malaysian Association of Theme Park and Family Attractions (MATFA)

We wait with great anticipation for the privileges that will be accorded to those who are fully vaccinated as announced by Prime Minister, YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on 24 July 2021.

We have been advocating for these privileges so that businesses can safely re-open soonest possible. This should apply to all types of businesses including shopping malls, street front shops and other outlets as well as entertainment, gym, spa, family entertainment centres, theme parks, waterparks and all other gated control attractions etc. This will stymie the escalating avalanche of business closures, layoffs and unemployment.

Several sources have estimated that herd immunity ranges from 60 to 80 %. Taking the middle-ground, we suggest that a threshold of 70% be acceptable.

Based on this threshold, we suggest that a shop can open for business so long 70% of the working crew in attendance at any one time to serve the public has been fully vaccinated. Furthermore, only customers who are fully vaccinated would be admitted.

For shopping malls, over and above the control of admission of shoppers who are determined by MySejahtera as "low-risk" and "casual contact - no symptom" status and with temperatures below 37.5 degrees, we will additionally check the Vaccination Status from the respective shopper's MySejahtera and only admit those who have been fully vaccinated. Thus, shops within the Malls need not repeat this process and the Mall will effectively become a type of Green Bubble environment.

We believe with all these conditions being implemented, it is manageable risk for all shops in the mall to be open for business. This will thereby improve the chance for revival and survival of the retail businesses which have been severely damaged due to the current prolonged and unnecessary closures, despite the extremely low of 0.8% of infected cases for shopping areas as reported by the Ministry of Health. Malls will become a Green Bubble environment for the public to seek relief and release after being cooped up for so long as well as for some physical exercise and mental health therapy.

This vaccination dividend and privilege will invariably create further urgency to be vaccinated and we urge that more inoculation capacity and more PPVs be ramped up thereby achieving herd immunity faster so that our economy can repair and recovery earlier and with more certainty .We look forward to the earliest announcement so that the economy can re-start and recover and halt the debilitating impact of the prolonged lockdowns.

LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS MATTER, thank you.