



19 May 2021

PRESS STATEMENT – NO to Lockdown

➤ **NO to Lockdown**

The recent spike in Covid cases is indeed alarming with various calls for another lockdown. We wish to caution against another lockdown as experience has shown globally that the results are impermanent while the damage to the business and economy is far more severe.

A full lockdown will not be sustainable as it will cripple the shopping industry for good as the entire industry has already been struggling valiantly for survival for the past 14 months.

Shopping malls and retailers serve essential needs and services and must be allowed to operate. Instead, we would advocate to allow all existing businesses to continue operations amid existing restrictions.

Most businesses and the public are complying well with the SOPs. While waiting for one's turn to be vaccinated, it is compulsory for simple SOPs like wearing masks and physical distancing to be practised and indeed, are widely practised. Generally, Malaysians are quite compliant and the current spikes have driven more to comply diligently and voluntarily.

It is observed that enforcement have been further enhanced and so long the SOPs are clear and unambiguous and not left to the interpretation of enforcement personnel, the public are generally heeding the instructions to follow. We again wish to emphasise and reiterate that the safety of shoppers is top priority at shopping malls and have further augmented safety SOPs by only allowing entry to low risk shoppers as determined by MySejahtera.

The restrictions under MCO3.0 are already adequate and when duly implemented and followed should be suffice to avoid the need for any lockdown.

➤ **To Ramp Up the Vaccination Programme**

The most effective solution is to vaccinate the population as soon as possible to achieve herd immunity. The vaccination program must be drastically expedited and ramped up from the current sluggish progress. Indeed, the recent spikes have created a rush for the otherwise lackadaisical speed of registration for vaccination which augers well for the success of immunising the majority of the population in the shortest possible time.

The focus must be to source adequate vaccines, speedy delivery with sound logistics to enable vaccination to be effected efficiently.

The businesses community have proposed for on-site vaccination so that interruptions to business operations are kept to the minimum. We are glad that this on-site proposal is currently being finalised with the business sector contributing towards the logistics and premises and manpower while the government provide the vaccines. This is a win-win collaboration. Once this is rolled-out, we strongly believe that it will also speed up the vaccination program with maximum efficiency and with minimal loss of productivity.

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In conclusion, we strongly feel that another lockdown is not a viable solution while the damage to the economy is drastic and survival of businesses will be even more critical. All efforts must be focused on speeding up the immunisation program to vaccinate the majority of the population to combat this pandemic permanently so that we can all start to rebuild our business and the nation's economy.

Thank you.