



**PRESS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, 28 May 2021

As we face an all-time high of daily COVID-19 numbers, the American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) welcomes the efforts by the Prime Minister and Malaysian government to arrest further transmission, including the increased enforcement of SOPs.

However, we decry the attribution of the spike to the manufacturing sector which is to be expected due to the aggressive testing taken on by the manufacturing sector, in place of any widespread community testing. This is supported by the Director-General of Health's statement on 11 May that 80 percent of infections are not from the clusters but are sporadic cases from the community.

Work-related testing is catching asymptomatic cases early, providing a level of curtailment of transmission on-site or back in the community. Any suggestion of a lockdown will end this and drive transmission even further into the community where it is harder to identify and contain.

Malaysia holds an integral role in many global value chains, a successful position based on many decades of growth and investments. It is an economic imperative for the country to maintain these positions, as the cascading impact reaches deep into and across Malaysia's domestic economy. Whether supporting a client abroad directly or through a multinational on the ground, Malaysian companies and workers are an important part of the global economy and are the lifeblood for many, both locally and to the global economy.

We reinforce the Ministry of International Trade and Industry's (MITI) effort to maintain economic viability by ensuring all local manufacturing sectors and related services remain open while being completely mindful of the lives at stake and the sacrifices being made on the medical frontline.

We fully support all our local suppliers that in turn provide AMCHAM member companies the ability to use Malaysia as a base of operations.

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We are in this together and must help each other to stay safe in both the workplace and community by maintaining strict adherence to SOPs to ensure we can curtail the number of infections while remaining productive, while vaccinations are being rolled out for the rakyat and economic front-liners.

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ABOUT AMCHAM MALAYSIA

The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) was founded in 1978 as an international, non-profit, private-sector business association. It comprises more than 1200 members representing about 280 American, Malaysian and other international companies with strong ties to American business. The Chamber is a member of the AmChams of Asia Pacific.

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