



PRESS RELEASE
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KUALA LUMPUR 2 July 2021 - The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) recognizes the need for COVID-19 case numbers to be reduced and that drastic actions are required. However, we are gravely concerned that the implementation of Enhanced Movement Control Orders (EMCOs) in several sub-districts in the State of Selangor and localities in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur ignores the successes of companies that have consistently maintained the highest standards of safety at their facilities, many of which have been lauded by local and federal authorities as exemplary. These companies are successful models of a pragmatic strategy aimed at operating safely in the age of COVID-19.

Keeping the workforce in safe working environments ensures, as much as possible, that movement of the people is contained within two areas - the home and the workplace. Companies are testing regularly and identifying transmissions that are brought in from the community. In the past months many multinationals have increased their screening to further protect their workforce.

“It is time the authorities start to differentiate between good and bad actors, and allow companies that are known to have a good track record the ability to operate,” said Siobhan Das, AMCHAM’s Chief Executive Officer. Locking down safe working environments that are closely monitored potentially exacerbates the transmission in the communities where the population is not being tested or checked on a regular basis. Moreover, many sophisticated facilities are unable to turn off and turn on at will, a factor that seems to be lost on the authorities and groups demanding total lockdown.

AMCHAM urges the Government to use a more balanced approach and to work with industry to protect both lives and livelihoods with active engagement with these companies. Supplemented with educational programs and a narrative that supports the workforce being engaged safely while working with the community to address potential hotspots will contribute to maintaining Malaysia as a critical part of the global economy.

Additionally, as the workforce are getting vaccinated, rules, regulations and policies incorporating vaccinated persons need to be articulated and implemented to boost the economic recovery. Safety is our goal. Recovery and growth of Malaysia is the outcome we are aiming for.



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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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