



UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

PRESS STATEMENT

INCREASE OF OPERATIONAL CAPACITY TO REBUILD THE ECONOMY

The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the health of the people as well the country's economy. The government has taken proactive measures, in particular the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO) to curb transmission this outbreak. The war against COVID-19 is not over, but we have flattened the curve to a controlled level. However, we are not victorious yet and will continue to make every effort to ensure health and the safety of our people.

2. The government is also responsible for the recovery of the economy including the protection the people's livelihood. This effort is to rebuild a sustainable, competitive economy, whilst restoring investor confidence as well as guaranteeing jobs.

3. On April 23, 2020, the Prime Minister announced that COVID-19 cases have dropped significantly following continued efforts by the Government in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. To ensure this positive trend continues, the Government has extended the MCO period until May 12 2020. With this extension, the Government is reviewing recovery methods of the economy in stages. This includes the opening up of additional sectors and sub-sectors of the economy, subject to strict requirements to ensure that companies continue to operate and that its employees are in a safe working environment.

4. In this regard, the Economic Action Council (EAC) meeting yesterday (April 27, 2020) discussed the current state of the economy and national finance, business continuity and people's wellbeing. The meeting has reviewed and deliberated on the research and recommendations presented by the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of International Trade and Industries (MITI), Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) and Khazanah Nasional. The Ministry of Health (MOH) represented by the Minister of Health and the Director General of Health also presented their views and feedback on the subject matter. The discussion focused on the need for restarting and reviving a comprehensive economic supply chain that can help business to continue operating fully, rebuild the stock affected and enable the efficient delivery of goods and services to customers.

5. The decisions of the EAC meeting has been tabled at the council meeting of the National Security Council this morning (April 28, 2020) and was chaired by the Prime Minister and also attended by all the Chief Ministers.



6. Recognizing the urgent need to address the current economic crisis, the Government has agreed to allow the sectors of the economy which were permitted to operate at MCO Levels 1, 2 and 3 to increase its operational capacity and operate fully without time constraints according to their specific industry requirements.

7. Companies in the authorized sectors **MUST** comply with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) requirements set for their respective sectors. Failure of any company to comply with the SOPs will result in immediate cancellation of authorization to operate and may be subject to legal action.

8. This permission is effective from tomorrow (April 29, 2020). The companies that have been approved to operate, no longer need to apply to MITI for permission.

9. This initiative will provide a catalyst for the recovery of the supply chain system and goods and services to meet domestic and foreign demand. This will certainly have a positive impact on the company's earnings in particular for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

10. While the Government provides for this relaxation, the people and the owners of enterprises need to adapt to the “new normal” by practicing social distancing at work, proper personal hygiene and adherence to all health and safety guidelines.

- END -

YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali
Menteri Kanan
Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa & Industri (MITI)
Tuesday, 28 April 2020