
**PRESS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, 19 May 2021

**AMCHAM Says No to Total Lockdown, Implement Best Practices
from Previous MCOs**

The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) supports the Malaysian government in taking strong measures to curb the sharp increase in daily COVID-19 cases and easing the burden on the country's healthcare system.

AMCHAM does not, however, support a Movement Control Order (MCO) 1.0-styled lockdown as was enforced at the beginning of March 2020 in any state or across the nation. Such an approach does not take into account the learnings and infrastructure put in place since last year and would have an immediate negative impact on the already hard hit local economy. It would also have long and far reaching repercussions for businesses currently located in the country and their role in global supply chains.

Drawing from the collaboration between industry and government and recognizing the crucial role that Malaysian workers and businesses play in the supply chain network, we urge the Government to implement best practices from previous MCOs. In adopting a whole-of-society approach, it is also imperative for every individual, family and community to do their part to ensure we achieve a balance between economic survival and public health.

If a lockdown is unavoidable, a negative list should be instituted to ensure intricate ecosystems are intact. This would automatically include manufacturing and support services such as Medical Devices, Electrical and Electronics (E&E) including Semiconductor, and Information & Communication Technology (ICT) and their supporting SMEs which were found to be crucial to the country. In facilitating this, mobility of the workforce must be allowed to continue under consistent and clear rules.

AMCHAM reiterates its recommendation to allow businesses to self-regulate operational capacity, even if headcount is limited to only 50 percent on-site at any given time. With no working hour restrictions, companies will be able to implement rotations and split shifts, supporting the needed social distancing and Safe@Work bubbles.

We also strongly urge that preparations be made for expeditious vaccination of the community as soon as supplies arrive. Private hospitals and clinics should be primed and equipped to vaccinate their local communities. Industry is similarly ready with their resources and infrastructure to support the roll-out of the industry vaccination program, including on-site vaccinations for industry.

AMERICAN MALAYSIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (Company No. 37216-W)

Level 10, Bangunan Faber Imperial Court, Jalan Sultan Ismail, 50250 Kuala Lumpur


Tel: (60-3) 2727 0070 Fax: (60-3) 2727 0075 e-mail: info@amcham.com.my Web: www.amcham.com.my

Throughout, we ask for clear and consistent messaging by the Government to minimize confusion, as this will enable smooth implementation and enforcement of any SOPs. The methodology behind the Hotspot Identification for Dynamic Engagement (HIDE) system remains opaque, and there has been much confusion caused by the recent spate of media coverage on federal versus state government procurement of vaccines. These examples erode both public and business confidence in Malaysia in handling the pandemic.

Additional steps must be taken to showcase the country's ability to manage its economy and the safety of its people through the iterations of COVID-19 while firmly maintaining its position in the global supply chains. Advanced notice and allowance for scenario planning with clearly set criteria will enable businesses to plan ahead without facing the disruptive task of juggling ever-changing SOPs which update as frequently as on a daily basis.

As of Q1 2021, the country is on the right trajectory for economic recovery. Imposing another lockdown will threaten this positive momentum, negatively impact investment sentiments, and once again call into question Malaysia's reliability within the global value chains.

AMCHAM is proud of the collaboration fostered with various Ministries and their agencies in finding solutions in the face of COVID-19 that has helped to keep the country on track. As ever, we stand ready to work together through this next phase and we look forward to maintaining the open lines of communication between businesses and the government. **#togetherwecan**



Siobhan Das
Chief Executive Officer

For more information, please contact:

Media Contact:

Yvonne Miranda

Membership & Engagement Manager

T: +603 2727 0070 | M: +6012 398 0072 | E: yvonne@amcham.com.my

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.

Find us on:

amcham.com.my

facebook.com/AmChamMalaysia

twitter.com/AmChamMalaysia

linkedin.com/in/amchammalaysia