

MENARA MPAJ, JALAN PANDAN UTAMA, PANDAN INDAH, SELANGOR, 55100 KUALA LUMPUR

### KERATAN AKHBAR 14 MEI 2020 (KHAMIS)

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# Obey SOP or it's MCO again DG: People must observe social discipline or we risk another surge

By JOSEPH KAOS Jr. and HEMANANTHANI SIVANANDAM newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Strict adherence to the Health Ministry's standard operating procedure (SOP) during conditional movement control order (MCO) is crucial to prevent Covid-19 infection rates from increasing.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the success of the earlier phases of the MCO resulted in the Covid-19 "RO" value going down from 3.5 to 0.3.

R0 (pronounced r-nought) refers to the infectivity of a virus at the beginning of an outbreak in the community, that is the average of how many people can be infected by the positive case.

"For example, if the value of R is 4, this means that each positive case can spread the disease to four oth-

ers.
"The value of R can be decreased if proper precautionary measures are taken continuously.

"Likewise, this value can rise again if the public becomes complacent and non-compliant.

"Lowering the value of R to less



than one continuously will help to end an outbreak," said Dr Noor Hisham at the ministry's daily Covid-19 press conference here yesterday, where he showed a graph detailing the Covid-19 modelling by the National Institute of Health.

Dr Noor Hisham said if the people fail to adhere to the SOP, it may result in the increase of the R0 value to 1.6, which in turn will result in an exponential surge of new cases.

'So, whether or not we go back to the MCO all depends on the ability of Malaysians to observe social discipline," he said.

The R0 value will also help the government to decide whether or not to open up more economic sec-



We must do better: Dr Noor Hisham said more sectors like social and education sectors will be opened up if there are signs that the preventive measures are working.

tors, including barber shops. "By May 18, which is 14 days after the conditional MCO is in place, we'll see if the preventive measures are working.

"If we can bring the R0 down further, then rest assured we will open up more sectors.

"We will also consider (opening up the) social and education sectors," he said.

On the reopening of borders, Dr Noor Hisham said such a move will be the "last option and resort" as many factors need to be consid-

He said the country has recorded 360 Covid-19 cases from Malaysians after they returned from abroad, and from that, 88 tested negative in

He said the 88 only tested positive on the second swab on the 13th day of their quarantine.

"Because of that, we are very concerned about opening up the borders," he said.

He added that there will be strict SOP such as imposing a two week-quarantine upon arrival.

Earlier, he announced 37 new cases, taking the country's total to 6,779 cases, with 5,281 (or 77.9%) of them having been discharged from healthcare facilities.

There were also two new deaths and 58 more recoveries, which means there are only 1,387 active cases currently being treated at hos-



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# Few takers for dine-in option Most restaurants in Klang prefer takeaway services for the time being

By EDWARD RAJENDRA edward@thestar.com.mv

RESTAURANTS are not rushing to open their premises even though the prohibition on dining in has been lifted.

Malaysian Indian Restaurant
Owners Association president T.
Muthusamy said he has advised
members nationwide to weigh the
risks

risks.
"It would be good if they could open for dine-in and provide delivery and takeaway options.
"Restaurant owners must train their staff to adapt to new practices when dealing with customers.
"SOPs are important but at the same time, restaurateurs must care for workers, health and give there."

same time, restaurateurs must care for workers' health and give them vitamins to boost their immunity," he said.

Muthusamy added that most association members were in a financial squeeze as they still paid for their workers' rent and salaries. Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk.

Seri Amirudin Shari earlier said that dine-in would now be permitted in the state but social distanc-

ng must still be observed.

Restaurants, food courts, roofed talls and food kiosks could serve ood and drinks in their premises



from 7am to 10pm, he said in a

statement. Klang Lek Bak Kut Teh Restaurant manager Teoh Kok Keng said customers would be per

mitted to dine-in.

"We will allow two to three at a "We will allow two to three at a table but business has been slow. We encourage takeaway and if has become popular among many of our regular customers," he said.

Restaurant Selvaa owner
Selvadurai Thangarajoo said he has not opened his restaurant for dine-in.
"Our customers are not keen and we feel the risks are minimised by

we feel the risks are minimised by only offering takeaway service," he

33 Food Station supervisor Allen Chuo said there were strict rules

for dining in at the food court.
"I have limited seating and stalls. I do not encourage customers to dine-in but if they insist, we will allow them as long as they follow the rules," he said.

Klang Municipal Council (MPK)



At 33 Food Station, only two diners are allowed per table.

president Dr Ahmad Fadzli Ahmad Tajuddin said consumers must

adopt new habits when dining out.
"Besides ensuring social distancing is observed, customers' body temperature, names and phone numbers must be recorded to allow contact tracing if there is a case of Covid-19," he said.

Ahmad Fadzli added that high standards of cleanliness must be maintained, including frequent cleaning of touchpoints. "Restaurants must ensure that

customers feel safe when dining out as this would have an impact on their business, even after the Covid-19 threat is over.

"It is all about building trust and restaurants must have high standards of hygiene." Ahmad Fadzli added that the decision on whether to allow customers in would depend on individual owners. "Food takeaway is becoming the new normal and it would be better if this continues," he said.



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## MPSJ tears down stalls built on road reserve in Puchong

SUBANG Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) demolished five illegal stalls on a road reserve of Jalan Kinrara 2, Puchong.

The joint operation was led by MPSJ's building as well as enforcement, licensing, engineering and environment departments.

In a statement, MPSJ Corporate and Strategic Management deputy director Azfarizal Abdul Rashid said the operation was carried out under Section 70 of the Street,

Drainage and Building Act 1974.

"We issued a notice to the illegal stalls and building owners to remove their structures, built on a road reserve, within seven days.

"As they failed to comply, the Building Department then issued a notice under Section 72(6) of the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974 for the owners to evacuate and demolish the illegal structures themselves within 30 days.

"The council will demolish the

structures and the cost will be borne by the owners if they fail to comply within the given time," he

Azfarizal added that in addition to being on a road reserve, the stall operators also did not have business licences and there were public complaints.

"We hope business owners will not flout council guidelines or obstruct MPSJ officers from carrying out their duties," he said.



MPSJ personnel demolishing stalls that were built illegally on Jalan Kinrara 2, Puchong.



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### **PDRM** tahan individu di Selangor

di Selangor
ingkar SOP
Kuala Limpur: Polis Diraja
Malaysia (PDRM) menahan seorang individu di Selangor, kelmarin, kerana melanggar prosedur operasi standard (SOP) mengikut Akta 342.
Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, berkata ia selari tindakan PDRM ketika ini yang akan terus mengambil tindakan undang-undang kepada mana-mana pihak apabila melanggar SOP.
"Seperti diumumkan semalam (kelmarin), tindakan nasihat dan amaran sudah berakhir, justeru polis akan ambil tindakan undang-undang terhadap sesiapa yang melanggar peraturan dan SOP mengibil tindakan undang-undang terhadap sesiapa yang melanggar peraturan dan SOP mengikut Akta 342," katanya pada sidang media selepas Mesyuarat Khas Menteri Mengenai Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB), yang disiarkan secara langsung, semalam.

Ismail yang juga Menteri

Ismail yang juga Menteri Pertahanan berkata, pasukan



petugas khas operasi pema-tuhan diketuai PDRM membuat 70,237 pe-meriksaan kel-marin bagi memantau

dan menguat-dan menguat-kuasakan SOP PKPB di selu-ruh negara. Katanya, 5,022 pasar raya, 4,092 restoran, 1,255 kilang dan 3,482 turut diperiksa PDRM ba-

4,092 restoran, 1,255 kilang dan 3,482 turut diperiksa PDRM bagi tujuan sama.

Beliau berkata, pemeriksa an juga dibuat di 954 terminal pengangkutan darat, 172 terminal pengangkutan darat, 172 terminal pengangkutan air dan 72 terminal pengangkutan udara.

"Pasukan petugas khas pematuhan memeriksa 34,840 kenderaan persendirian dan 3,175 kenderaan awam, selain 2,062 pasar awam, 3,606 tempat ibadat, 1,397 tempat riadah dan 359 tapak binaan.

"Sebanyak 3,122 pasukan pematuhan mengendalikan pemantauan, membabitkan seramai 16,518 anggota.

"Seperti diumumkan semalam, tindakan undang-undang akan diambil oleh PDRM terhadap sesiapa yang melanggar SOP.

"Oleh itu, sekali lagi diingatkan kepada semua pihak supaya mengikuti SOP dan peraturan yang ditetapkan.

"Kerjasama dan disiplin diri