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UPDATED S.O.P.

PASAR MALAM TRADERS GET THEIR APPROVAL

KL City Hall allows traders to operate at 55 sites approved during CMCO with tighter S.O.P

VEENA BABULAL
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

AFTER a two-week-long campaign to be allowed to operate in areas under the Movement Control Order 2.0 (MCO), pasar malam traders nationwide are expected to resume business as early as today.

An update on standard operating procedures (SOPs) posted on the National Security Council's (NSC) Telegram feed last night listed night markets as among businesses allowed to operate in areas under MCO.

The guideline update further stated that pasar malam could operate from 4pm to 10pm only.

In the capital here, Pertubuhan Pengurusan Pasar Malam Kuala Lumpur secretary Roy James Charles said the association was informed by City Hall yesterday that traders could resume business immediately.



Roy James Charles

He, however, said the green-light was restricted to the 55 pasar malam sites that City Hall had approved for operations during the Conditional MCO period.

"We were told that foodstuff and telephone accessory traders are allowed to operate under the new SOPs, which would be announced later — but those selling clothes would not be allowed."

Roy said the traders would stick to the rules and go ahead with business under strict SOP.

"We hope to be back to trading as early as today and continue with the appeal to include clothes traders."

It is understood that the NSC and City Hall are in the midst of hammering out the details for operating during the MCO.

Pasar malam traders earlier cried foul over the NSC's move to disallow them from doing business — despite approving the opening of morning markets and other open

facilities that were previously shut down during MCO 1.0.

They noted that food stalls and restaurants had been allowed to extend their trading hours to 10pm while pasar malam were not given a chance to operate.

Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the NSC would be considering the appeal by barbers and hairdressers, as well as car wash operators soon.



yang perlu dipatuhi semasa pelanggan dibenarkan masuk ke tapak pameran.

- 1) Membawa kanak-kanak berumur ke bawah dan orang dewasa yang berumur 70 tahun ke atas dibenarkan masuk.
- 2) Wajib memakai penutup mulut dan menggunakan hand sanitizer.
- 3) Sila daftar nama di meja uruseta di depan pintu masuk.

4) Harapkan dan laksanakan semua prosedur.

The pasar malam at Taman Desa, Kuala Lumpur, opened for business yesterday after the National Security Council allowed night markets to open nationwide. (Inset) A list of standard operating procedures placed beside a pasar malam stall in Kuantan.

AGENCY PIX

Public question rationale as Covid-19 cases soar above 5,000 per day

KUALA LUMPUR: With Malaysia clocking more than 5,000 new Covid-19 cases yesterday, members of the public are distressed over the National Security Council's decision to allow pasar malam to operate from 4pm to 10pm during the Movement Control Order 2.0 (MCO).

As authorities struggle to strike a balance between lives and livelihood, many feared that reopening pasar malam could be a misstep in attempts to stem the spread of Covid-19.

A woman who gave her name as Zee said allowing night markets to operate during MCO 2.0 would only render it as "another version" of the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO).

"People can move around freely and interact with each other at pasar malam, for example, while exchanging cash when making purchases."

"If we want to allow night markets to operate, it would be better for the government to replace the

MCO with a CMCO, but maintain the ban on interstate travel.

"Alternatively, if the government still wants to allow night markets to operate, then they should provide incentives for hawkers to switch to cashless payment mechanism," she told the *New Straits Times*.

Another individual, who only wanted to be known as Joruno, said it was unwise to allow night markets to operate before arresting the surge in Covid-19 cases.

"Indeed, reopening night markets can boost the economy and help small traders to weather

hard times. But with new cases so high, is this really a timely move?

"At this point, it seems like the government is relenting to everything that the people ask, like reopening the night markets and promising to shorten the MCO period."

Nevertheless, Bumiputera Petty Traders Association president Datuk Mohd Baba Kutty welcomed the reopening of night

markets but expressed dissatisfaction over the current standard operating procedures (SOPs) for those markets.

"Since street vendors are mushrooming at the moment, I don't see any problem in allowing pasar malam traders to also earn a living. But I hope these businesses will be allowed to operate until midnight."

"Furthermore, I think the government should review the SOPs for wet markets. Currently, wet markets are only allowed to operate until 2pm."

"But many foreign nationals are cashing in on this regulation by selling fish and other goods around the Pudu and Chow Kit markets after 2pm."

"In that way, they make their money while the wet market traders are at the losing end."

"Kuala Lumpur City Hall should come up with a directive that no wet market goods should be sold outside market premises after the stipulated operating hours," he said.

Baba Kutty also called on the government to consult stakeholders, such as traders associations, to better understand the situation of small businesses on the ground before formulating the SOPs. **Reporting by Dhe-segan Bala Krishnan**

“If we want to allow night markets to operate, it would be better for the government to replace the MCO with a CMCO, but maintain the ban on interstate travel.”

Woman who wants to be known as Zee