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CALL TO TARGET CLUSTERS IN FACTORIES

EMCO A BITTER PILL FOR KL, SELANGOR FOLK

Residents say action could have been initiated earlier before cases had soared

KUALA LUMPUR

KLANG Valley folk affected by the Enhanced Movement Control Order, which begins today in most parts of Selangor and Kuala Lumpur, were not too pleased with the latest restrictions, but accept it was something that had to be done to bring down the number of infections.

They, however, said it would not have come to this if a two-week EMCO had been imposed much earlier.

"It's not too bad, although many people are affected by this, especially those who have businesses. I'm a homemaker, but still, not being able to go out for months on end can be trying," said Salasiah Abu Hassan, 32, a single mother of two children.

She said the EMCO should have focused on areas with the highest number of cases, such as factories, and not residential areas.

University student Seth Zamzuri, 22, said if the EMCO had been imposed when the cases were hovering around 3,000 daily, it would not have come to this.

"I'm upset and tired of staying at home, but there's nothing much we can do. Let's hope this latest EMCO will not be extended after this."

In Putrajaya, Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan said only workers in essential services were allowed to leave their homes during the EMCO.

"Employers are required to adhere to this order and allow their workers (in non-essential services) to work from home (WFH)," he said in a statement.

Saravanan also reminded employers to follow the EMCO standard operating procedures (SOP), especially on the number of workers allowed in the office or other workplaces.

He said the Human Resources Ministry had received complaints from workers about employers threatening them with termination if they refused to work at the office.

He advised workers to report cases to the ministry by using the Working for Workers (WFW) mobile application.

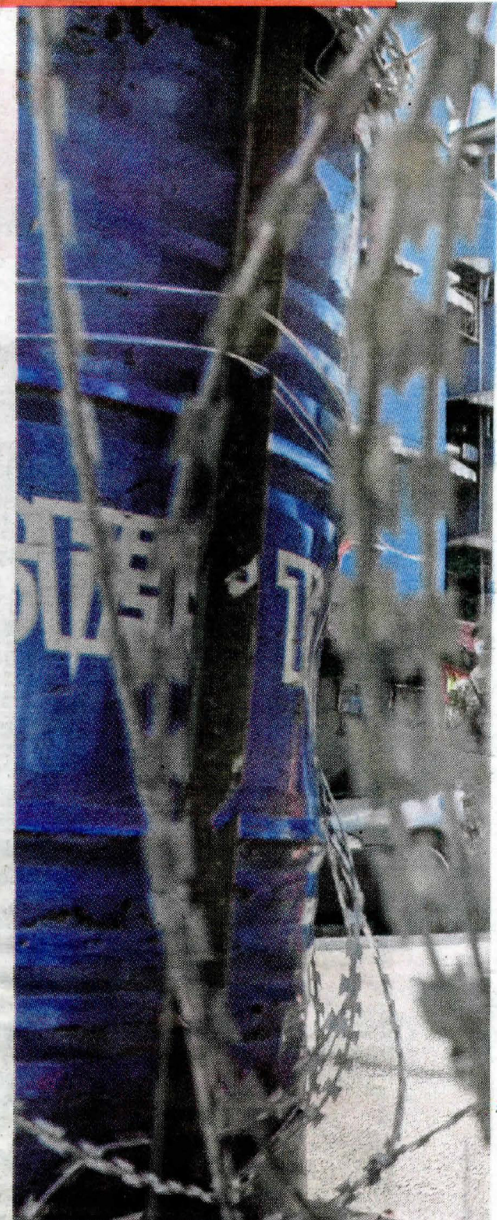
Apart from WFH-related complaints, the app also has 16 other categories of complaints.

"The ministry regards each complaint seriously and will take appropriate action," he said.

He said 1,878 complaints of employers refusing to allow staff to WFH were recorded by the app between May 23 and yesterday.

Selangor had the most number of complaints at 696, followed by Kuala Lumpur (505), Johor (196) and Penang (123).

Saravanan said 59 compounds for violating worker capacity had been issued by the Labour Department of Peninsular Malaysia and Occupational Safety and Health Department between June 1 and July 1.



Residents of Bukit Angkasa in Kuala Lumpur yesterday receiving supplies from relatives in preparation for the Enhanced Movement Control Order. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD



Workers at a food manufacturing factory in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAAL



IGP: Travel okay for vaccine jab, medical purposes, emergencies

KUALA LUMPUR: Those living in areas under the Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) will be allowed to travel for vaccination and medical purposes.

Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani yesterday said a maximum of three people per vehicle would be permitted for the purpose.

"Those living in EMCO areas only need to show their appointment dates on the MySejahtera app or website, appointment cards or SMS to personnel on duty. As for emergencies, such as illnesses or death, travel approval will be issued on a case-by-case basis," he said.

Acryl Sani advised the public to adhere to standard operating procedures set by the National Security Council and to cooperate with efforts to break the Covid-19 chain of transmission.

The government on Thursday announced the implementation of the EMCO in large parts of Selangor, in particular the Klang Valley, and several sub-districts in Kuala Lumpur following the consistently high number of daily infections.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported Home Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin as saying that the government would study data on the spread of Covid-19 nationwide to consider easing the SOP for Phase One of the National Recovery Plan in certain states.

He said the matter would be discussed with Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, through the National Security Council Technical Committee.

"From the data we can see which states can be given flexibility. This proposal aims to give

Nanta: Plan grocery shopping to avoid crowds, Covid virus

KUALA LUMPUR: The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry has urged people to plan their grocery shopping to avoid crowding at shops, which could lead to a rise in Covid-19 cases.

Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi yesterday said those in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur should not panic-buy ahead of the two-week Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) that starts today in some sub-districts and localities.

"The ministry will ensure there is a stable and sufficient supply of essential items nationwide throughout the EMCO period."

"Ministry personnel will conduct daily checks to ensure sufficient supply in all states," he said, reminding shoppers to adhere to standard operating procedures (SOP).

He said supermarkets and hypermarkets, pharmacies, convenience stores, mini marts and eateries in shopping malls were allowed one customer per 4 sq m

of the premises at a time.

He said operating hours for distribution centres were subject to municipal council regulations, while dining in at restaurants was prohibited.

Operating hours for convenience shops in petrol stations were also subject to the local authority. Only retail activities are allowed at pet shops, pet care centres and hardware stores.

"Installation of appliances and repairs at homes by contractors are not allowed."

He said workshops and car washes were not allowed to open.

"Premises running e-commerce business are allowed only to wrap and deliver goods that are essential, subject to the operational hours set by the local government."

Further details on operations for other essential services under the trade sector could be referred to the respective Covid-19 coordination and management committees in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur, he said.



Home Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin at the steel fabrication plant in Subang that was raided yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

some freedom and relief," he said after leading Op Patuh in Subang yesterday.

Hamzah said the high number of Covid-19 cases in Selangor had caused people in other states to feel overwhelmed.

He said from today, police assets, such as drones and helicopters, would be deployed to some areas to ensure SOP compliance.

Also present were Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Mazlan Lazim, and Internal Security and Public Order Department deputy director (special operations force) Datuk Mastor Mohd Arif.

During yesterday's operation in Subang, a steel fabrication plant was raided as it was not on the list of companies allowed to operate during the MCO.