



ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY

Kuala Lumpur Office

**(UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION)**

**Ministry of International Trade and Industry**

Media Release

**INCREASE OF OPERATIONAL CAPACITY TO REBUILD THE ECONOMY**

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has affected the health of the people as well the country's economy. The Government has taken proactive measures, in particular with the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO) to curb the transmission of this outbreak. We have yet eliminated COVID-19 successfully but the attempts have nonetheless flattened the curve to a controlled level. Under every circumstances, we should not let our guard down and will continue to make every effort to ensure health and the safety of the people.

2. The Government is also responsible for the recovery of the economy including protecting the people's sources of income. This effort is to rebuild a sustainable, competitive economy, restoring investors' confidence as well as guaranteeing long term job stability.

3. On 23 April 2020, the Prime Minister announced that the COVID-19 case has dropped significantly following the Government's ongoing efforts in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. To ensure this positive trend continues, the Government has extended the MCO period until 12 May 2020. With this extension, the Government is reviewing methods to recover the economy in stages. This includes opening up several sectors and additional sub-sectors, subject to strict compliance to the regulations set forth to ensure that the companies in these sector are able to operate and that their employees are working in a safe environment.

4. In this regard, the Economic Action Council (EAC) meeting held yesterday (April 27, 2020) has discussed the country's current economic and financial situation, business continuity and people's well-being. The meeting reviewed the research and recommendations presented by the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) and National Treasury. The Ministry of Health (MOH) represented by the Minister of Health and the Director General of Health also presented the views and feedback on the matter.

The discussion focused on the need for restarting and reviving the overall economic supply chain that will help businesses continue to operate fully, rebuild affected stocks and enable efficient delivery of services and goods to the consumers.

5. The decisions made at the EAC meeting were tabled at the National Security Council meeting this morning (April 28, 2020), 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 that the economic sectors that have been allowed to operate at the MCO Phase 1, 2 and 3 to operate at full capacity and are allowed to operate without time constraint in accordance to the needs and requirements of their respective industries.

7. Companies that fall under the authorized sectors MUST comply with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) requirements set for their respective sectors. Any company who fails to comply with the SOP will have their authorization to operation terminated immediately and be faced with legal actions.

8. This permission is effective from tomorrow (April 29, 2020). The companies that have previously received approval 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 of goods and services to meet domestic and foreign demands. This will certainly have a positive impact on the earnings of companies especially for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

10. While the Government is easing the restrictions, the people and the business owners need to start adapting to the “new normal” by obeying and implementing social distancing at work, observe personal hygiene and adhere to health control guidelines.

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