



**KEMENTERIAN PEMBANGUNAN
USAHAWAN DAN KOPERASI**
Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives

PRESS RELEASE

SMES AND MICRO BUSINESS TO PREPARE FOR STRICTER SOPS

Kuching, 22 May 2021 – The Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives (MEDAC) called on SMEs as well as micro businesses to prepare operating under stricter SOPs should the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise.

This includes the possibility of having to face a third round of a nationwide Movement Control Order (MCO 3.0) to drastically curb the spread of the pandemic.

Minister Dato Sri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said by now, business owners should have already made the necessary preparation and arrangements to ensure that their operations comply with safety SOPs.

This include making sure their premise is equipped with QR Code, thermometer, hand sanitizers as well as ensuring that their customers too strictly follow the safety SOPs.

On top of that, he also hopes that by now, the SMEs and micro businesses would have digitalised their operations not only to cushion the impact of the MCO but also to cater to the consumers' new norm of preferring to shop online.

“We have been in this situation for almost two years and by now business owners should already take all the necessary measures to ensure that their operations are able to operate in post COVID-19 environment,” he said.

Dr Wan Junaidi also urged Malaysians to strictly adhere to the safety SOPs and participate in the vaccination programme, to help the government in flattening the COVID-19 curve.

Looking at the number of daily cases, which has recently exceeded 6,000 cases, it is crucial for everyone in the country to do their part to help contain the spread of the virus.

He said if the number of cases continues to rise, the government may not have much of a choice but to enforce a lockdown, which will consequently have an adverse impact on the country's economy.

During the first MCO, it was estimated that the country suffered daily losses amounting to RM2.4 billion and RM300 million losses daily losses in the second round of MCO.

“Our economy has yet to recover from the earlier lockdowns. We can see people are struggling, businesses are struggling.

“We need your support to bring the numbers down. To do this, it is important for everyone to take the SOPs seriously. Don't just follow it because you are afraid of the authority but because it is part of your responsibility to keep the country and the people safe,” he added.

Meanwhile, Dr Wan Junaidi, who is also Santubong Member of Parliament handed over RM20,000 worth of food item to 150 families from Kampung Bako Hilir, which has now been placed under the Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO).

He hopes these contributions, courtesy of UDA Holding Berhad, could help ease some of the burden faced by these families in this trying times.

MINISTRY OF ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATIVES