

PRESS RELEASE

21 MAY 2021

NATIONWIDE MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (MCO) TO BREAK COVID-19 CHAIN OF INFECTION AND PROPOSAL FOR BUSINESS SURVIVAL MEASURES

Under the current pressing pandemic situation when public health and safety are at its most critical, drastic measures need to be taken to avert a crisis that could affect our national security. We are reaching a tipping point where health and safety takes precedence over others. Partial Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) is not effective to reduce the rise of COVID-19 cases, instead, its uncertainty only makes it more challenging to plan and execute our works in an effective manner.

Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) believes a full Movement Control Order (MCO) similar to MCO 1.0 for a specific period is necessary to break the chain and to curb the wave driven by more infectious COVID-19 variants.

On the other hand, PAM is equally concerned on the continuous challenges suffered by businesses and employers who are affected by the MCO. In fighting COVID-19, the public and private sector have to work hand in hand to preserve jobs and ensure businesses survival for long term job security instead of one-off subsidy to individuals.

In such circumstance, the implementation of MCO needs to be accompanied with the following measures:-

- i. 'Economic Stand Still' model – Six months loan repayment moratoriums and utility bill deferments to reduce operational cost to businesses and individual expenses;
- ii. Lateral cost sharing policy – 25% reduction in business properties rental, residential property rental, private employees and public servant wages;
- iii. Residential properties utility bill rebate or discount up to 25% to support employees working from home and students studying from home;
- iv. Subsidised high speed internet throughout MCO period to encourage working from home;
- v. Expedite vaccination programme with tax claimable incentives for private vaccination initiatives;
- vi. Special grant or tax relief for digitalisation and automation of businesses to increase productivity including hardware and software;
- vii. To amend Covid-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 as recommended by the construction industry stakeholders to include provision for General Extension of Time and Cost Sharing for Covid related and preventive measures provisions;
- viii. To allow digital transmission of documents and online payment transactions, including submission of tender, application for plan approval, submission of reports, plan fee payment, development charges etc;

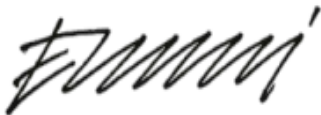
- ix. To allow virtual meeting and discussion with and among local authorities and regulators without the need to be physically present and/or queuing at the service counter, and to ensure continuity of statutory approval process without delay; and
- x. To allow selected essential services and critical construction, maintenance and repair works to continue to prevent the risk to safety and health if it is not attended to.

Subsequent to the MCO, selected economic sectors with low risk business activities may gradually resume while others may need to remain with combination of remote and on-site working for a longer period.

We anticipate that a full Movement Control Order coupled with expedient vaccination rollout will be able to curb the spread of COVID-19 and enable us to begin the transition toward normalcy and herd immunity.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
for **Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia**



Datuk Ar. Ezumi Harzani Ismail
President

Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) - Malaysian Institute of Architects - is the national professional institute representing architects in Malaysia.

PAM was founded in 1920 as the Institute of Architects Malaya. In 1948, the name and consequently the Constitution were changed to the Federation of Malaya Society of Architects (FMSA) which was allied to the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Another change in name to reflect national sovereignty, and registration under the current name, came about when PAM was registered with the Registrar of Societies on 20 January 1967.

The Institute is managed by an elected Council consisting of a President, Deputy President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and 13 Council Members. Also in Council are the Immediate Past President, up to 4 nominated Past Presidents, up to 3 nominated non-Corporate member and 4 elected representatives from the Chapters.

The mission statement of the Institute is "To promote the advancement of architecture and the architectural profession for the betterment of society". The Institute provides a framework for its members to operate effectively: to do, to run and to get the business of architecture within the Code of Conduct and Scale of Fees.

The primary objectives of the Institute are:

- To promote and enlarge knowledge, study and practice of architecture.
- To provide a central organisation for architecture.
- To assist and advise Governments, local authorities, or other private or public bodies.
- To promote friendly interaction and discourse amongst Architects.
- To obtain and disseminate among the Members, information on matters affecting the profession, and
- To preserve and to maintain the integrity and status of the profession.

For more information, please visit www.pam.org.my or contact PAM Centre:-
Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (Malaysian Institute of Architects)
99L, Jalan Tandok, Bangsar,
59100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Email: info@pam.org.my;
Telephone: (+603) 2202 2866
Facsimile (+603) 2202 2566