

Work from home order still in force

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PUTRAJAYA: The work from home (WFH) order is still in force and employers who defy it "will be corrected", says Senior Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said he would bring the matter to the attention of the International Trade and Industry Minister as well as the Public Service Department director-general so that they could look into claims that some employers were not adhering to the order.

"The work from home order has not been lifted and must be implemented by employers as per directive. I will bring the matter up with Datuk Seri Azmin Ali and Tan Sri Mohd Khairul Adib Abd Rahman and if there are cases of employers not adhering to the order, the matter will be corrected," he said in his daily briefing.

The government imposed a WFH order for those in management and supervisory posts working in conditional MCO areas of Selangor, Sabah, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan beginning Oct 22.

The decision involved 800,000 workers in various industries listed under the International Trade and Industry Ministry and close to 200,000 civil servants. Workers in essential services, security as well as the informal sector are not affected by this directive.

To a question, the minister said meetings in conditional MCO areas are still not allowed and action could be taken against those who attend it.

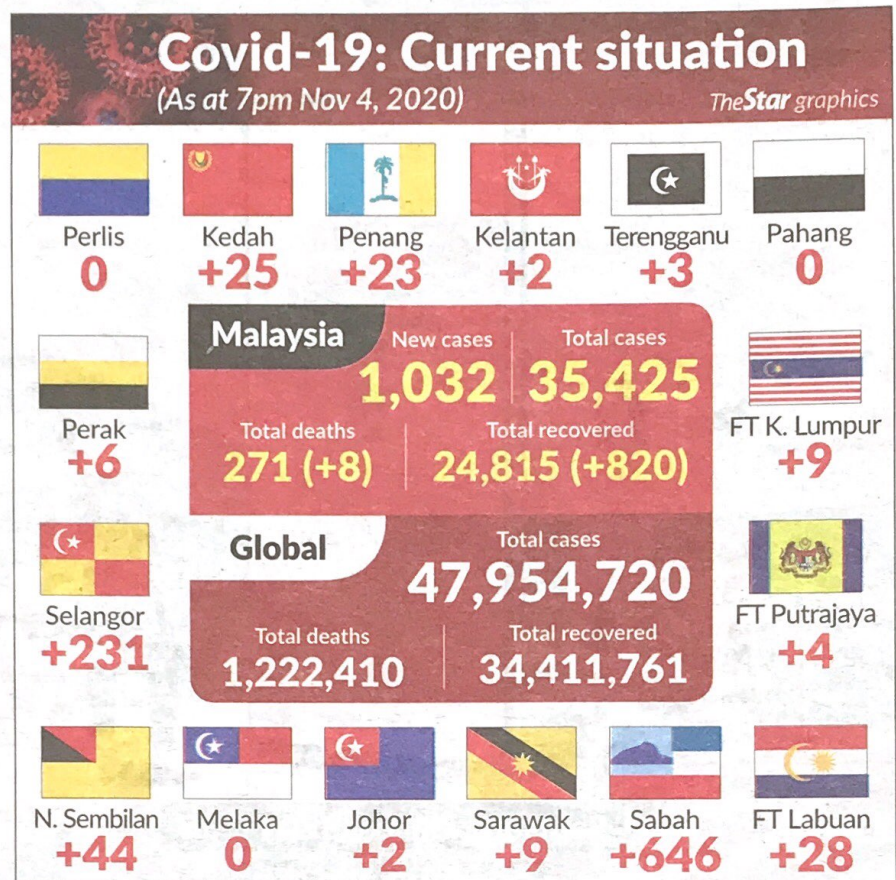
On another matter, Ismail Sabri said Malaysia has yet to reopen the border to foreigners, including those who work in the country but are currently back in their own home.

"We don't allow foreigners to enter Malaysia unless with Immigration approval. The policy is still the same," he said.

He pointed out that citizens of Bangladesh who are long-term pass holders are among those from 23 countries that are barred from entering Malaysia.

Ismail Sabri was responding to a news report that Bangladeshi migrant workers who returned home for holidays but were held up now because of the pandemic had demanded that their government assist in their return to Malaysia.

According to the report, about 25,000 Malaysia-



bound Bangladeshi workers had asked their government for help so that they could return to Malaysia to work.

The report quoted Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Masud Momen assuring them that the government would discuss the matter with Malaysia.

Ismail Sabri also announced that sub-district 12 in southwest Penang, encompassing Bayan Baru, Sungai Ara, Batu Maung, Desa Ria, Free Trade Zone 3 and Free Trade Zone 4, will be

placed under conditional MCO from tomorrow until Nov 19.

He noted that as of Nov 3, there had been 35 positive cases recorded in the sub-district, including 11 new cases.

This means there will be restrictions on inter-district travel except with police permission and for work purposes, no social and recreational activities allowed and schools are to remain closed during the period, with economic activities allowed to operate as normal.