

# Have a heart for frontliners

## Perak MB: They need appreciation, not discrimination

By IVAN LOH  
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

**TAIPING:** Business owners have been urged to be more considerate to frontliners and staff who work in premises with Covid-19 cases.

Having learnt that there had been shops here that turned away frontliners due to fears of getting infected, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Saarani Mohamad said such a perception is unfair, wrong and an insult.

"During a briefing at the Taiping police headquarters, I learnt that there's a certain perception involving frontliners, whether they are the police, Rela, firemen or prison staff.

"There are businesses that have placed stickers outside their shops disallowing Kamunting Correctional Centre staff from entering the premises," he told reporters after visiting the Changkat Jering toll interchange here yesterday.

"It is also demoralising as they would be embarrassed, having been identified as people who are not welcome.

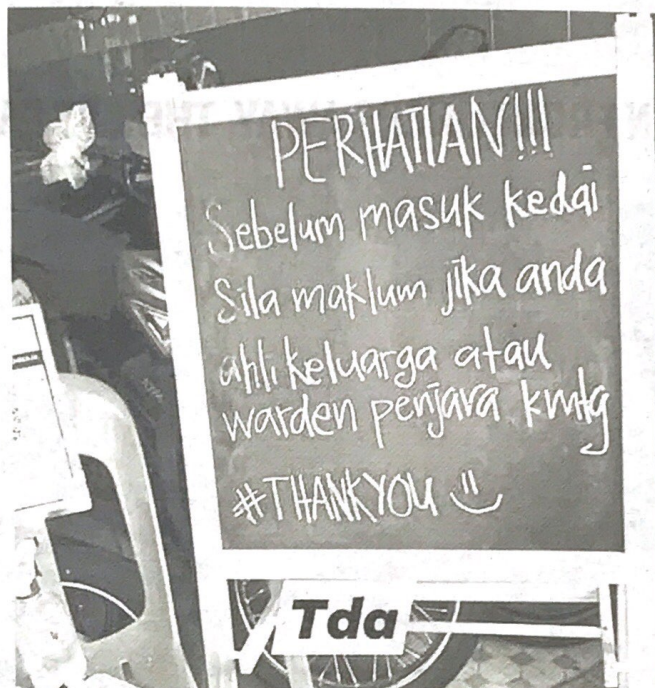
"They also need to buy food for their families. Let's put ourselves in their shoes and not be too paranoid," Saarani said, adding that most of the positive cases involved inmates at the correctional centre.

"Those who go out to buy things are the staff," he said, adding that some frontliners may have been quarantined and given the all-clear by medical staff.

"I urge the people not to have the wrong perception just because they were at the centres," he said.

"We need to be appreciative of their sacrifices and sympathise with them."

On a different matter, Saarani said the government could not simply allow traders to



**Note to customers:**  
A signboard put up at a shop in Taiping urging Kamunting Correctional Centre wardens or their families to identify themselves before entering the premises.

operate at night or morning markets.

"I understand they want to open for business but activities that can cause people to crowd could get out of control," he said.

"Will the traders be able to control the behaviour of the crowd? What if someone wants to take a selfie and removes his mask?"

"We should heed the lessons from the factories. At work, most of the workers observe strict standard operating procedure but it's different when they return to their hostels. It is mostly how the virus spreads," he said.

Separately, Perak police chief Comm Datuk Mior Faridalathrash Wahid said the police issued 339 summonses throughout the state during the movement control order from Jan 22-27, with the observance level of the MCO in the region of 97%.

"During the conditional MCO between Jan 13 and Jan 21, we issued 576 compounds.

"We would like to remind the people to continue observing the SOP, and we will not hesitate to take action on anyone who disobeys the MCO," he said.