



Patrons at a restaurant in Terengganu adhering to the standard operating procedure under the Movement Control Order. PIC BY GHAZALI KORI

MCO 2.0

# GOVT EASES MORE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

More people can sit at tables in eateries, travel together in one vehicle

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**T**HE government has eased several restrictions in areas under the Movement Control Order (MCO), including rules on dining at eateries, vehicle passenger limits, and akad nikah

(Muslim solemnisation) ceremonies.

Customers-per-table limits at restaurants would now be based on table capacity, as long as the 1m physical distancing rule is observed.

Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the government had decided to relax the restrictions, and patrons would no longer be subject to the two or four persons to a table ruling.

The National Security Council (NSC) meeting has agreed that in all areas, whether MCO, Conditional MCO or Recovery MCO, patrons would be allowed to dine based on the size of the table as long as there is a 1m physical dis-

tancing," he said at a press conference yesterday.

He said the government had also eased the passenger limit in vehicles, based on the vehicle capacity.

On *akad nikah* or the solemnisation ceremony in MCO areas, it can be held in both religious offices and mosques.

However, a maximum of 20 people would be allowed to attend, excluding the *jurunikah* and witnesses.

"Couples must obtain permission first as marriage solemnisations are under the jurisdiction of state religious offices."

For CMCO areas, the *akad nikah* ceremony is allowed with a maximum capacity of 50 per

cent, based on the size of the premises, and physical distancing of one metre.

For RMCO areas, the ceremony would be allowed according to the capacity of the venue, also taking into account physical distancing of one metre.

"As for non-Muslim weddings and receptions, the standard operating procedures (SOP) will be announced by the National Unity Ministry," he added.

Ismail Sabri also said the Enhanced MCO imposed on Kampung Sebako 1 and 2 in Lundu, Sarawak would end today as scheduled, as cases in both localities were under control.

"To date, the Health Ministry has screened 505 individuals, and from the total, 24 positive cases were recorded.

"The ministry confirmed that all positive cases had been admitted to the hospital for treatment, and all close contacts have been isolated at home and monitored until the 14th day."

The EMCO in SM Sultan Idris Shah 2 in Gerik, Perak, would be extended for another two weeks until March 1.

Ismail Sabri said this followed

an additional four cases linked to the area detected yesterday.

On SOP compliance, he said police had detained 463 people on Wednesday for various offences.

These included not observing physical distancing and travelling across the state or district border without permission.

He also said of the total, 440 were slapped with compounds, 22 remanded and one granted bail.

Ismail Sabri said the onus was on employers to make their workplaces safe from Covid-19 in light of the high number of workplace clusters.

"Employers are responsible for making sure their employees are safe. They must have in place all the necessary precautions.

"The workers themselves must also make it a point to notify the management if and when they experience symptoms.

"If a worker displays symptoms of the infection, or one who is wearing the pink quarantine band deliberately goes to work, action can be taken under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988."