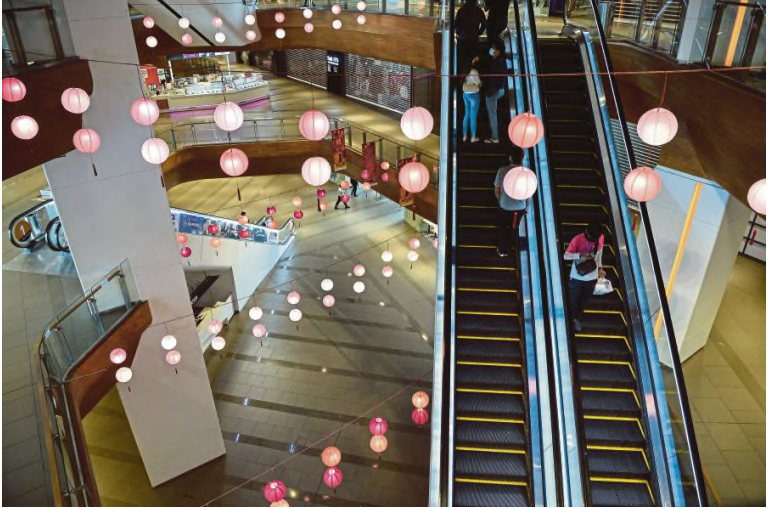


Reopen all economic sectors, says employers' group



By [Teh Athira Yusof](#) - February 6, 2021 @ 5:26pm



The Malaysian Employers' Federation (MEF) has appealed to the government to allow all economic sectors to resume operations soon. - Bernama file pic, for illustration purposes only

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Employers' Federation (MEF) has appealed to the government to allow all economic sectors to resume operations soon.

In a statement, MEF president Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman J.P said businesses desperately need to survive and the continued closure during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period will inevitably lead to bankruptcy and unemployment.

He said the MEF supported and understood the decision by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to allow only a certain number of the economic sector to reopen during the extended phase of MCO 2.0 until Feb 18.

"MEF supports the gradual expansion of sectors announced by the government but we would like to also appeal to the government to quickly reopen all sectors of the economy with stricter SOPs with higher penalties for repeated offenders.

"The MEF, as well as the other trade associations, urge all employers to ensure strict compliance of the SOP and those who repeatedly flout the SOPs should be penalised," he said in a statement.

He adds that businesses need to operate to stay afloat and in fact, all businesses should be reopened except for those that are unable to comply with the SOPs.

Syed Hussain said it was a huge relief for the textile and garment manufacturers to be allowed to resume operations but retailers are still desperately seeking approval from the government to resume business soon.

"In solidarity with our fellow Malaysians celebrating Chinese New Year, MEF urges the government to consider reopening the retail sector immediately.

"At least, the retailers can generate some income and the consumers get to celebrate the Chinese New Year in new clothes," he said.