

## MEF: Set up dedicated joint taskforce to handle KL, Selangor factories



By [Teoh Pei Ying](#) - July 5, 2021 @ 10:55am



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KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) has urged the National Security Council (NSC) to set up a dedicated joint taskforce immediately to look into management of Covid-19 in factories in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor during the Enhanced Movement Control Order (EMCO) period.

MEF president Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman J.P. said the dedicated taskforce should only focus on these two states where the local authorities provide details of the factories while the federal authorities work on screenings and vaccinations.

"We appreciate all the government had done to accelerate screenings and vaccinations, but in KL and Selangor, MEF recommends that a dedicated taskforce be urgently set up involving the local authorities to plan and execute the reduction of Covid-19 infections.

"Without a dedicated taskforce, it will take a long time as the NSC's main focus is to achieve herd vaccination for the whole country," he said in a statement.



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Syed Hussain emphasised that to operationalise targeted screening and vaccination, this dedicated taskforce must be set up.

"The main objective is to track down all workers in KL and Selangor to quickly address the increasing number of infections, this would allow all factories and businesses to operate, especially knowing that 40 per cent of the revenue comes from the EMCO areas."

He said apart from the approved factories, there are many illegal factories in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur which do not follow the standard operating procedures (SOP).

"In 2020, the authorities estimated more than 5,600 unlicensed factories operating in the Klang Valley.

"These illegal factories should also be identified and their workers should be screened and vaccinated. If we don't, then the issue will not be addressed," he said.

He said the local and federal authorities need to work closely together, but stressed that action should not be taken against the owners of the illegal factories as the objective is to vaccinate to bring down the number of infections.

"We must be bold to accept that these legal and illegal factories exist, and that should be the focus of the proposed dedicated taskforce.

"We hope the NSC and state authorities will put aside any political differences to solve the issue of increasing infections fast because many employers are suffering together with their employees."

He said large multinational companies based in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur are also concerned that the prolonged lockdown would affect supplies to international markets.

"Therefore, the urgency to set up a dedicated taskforce to tackle these problems is of paramount importance.

"In fact, all those factories that comply strictly with the SOPs should be allowed to operate without any more delays.

"If we delay any further, we may risk seeing such businesses close down in Malaysia, focussed of execution is the mother of success."