

## MEF: Lock down red zones but open all sectors in other areas

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**PETALING JAYA:** Companies located outside of the Covid-19 red zones should be allowed to operate based on the low number of new daily infections recorded, the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) said today.

The pressures on employers, employees and the rakyat had reached extreme levels and MEF of the view that the best way forward to ensure the survivability of livelihoods is to allow business to operate, its president Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman pointed out.

“The government has done much to control the spread of Covid-19 and we appreciate all the efforts and support provided to employers throughout this difficult period,” he said in a statement.

“In consideration of the FMCO currently being enforced nationwide, we propose that companies operating outside of the red zone areas be allowed to operate based on the low number of new daily infections recorded in those areas, but the ban on interstate travel should continue to remain.

“We have members in low infection areas such as Terengganu, Kedah and Perlis that have complained that it was not fair for them to be subjected to the same treatment as companies in red zones such as KL and Selangor where the infection rate is still high.”

Syed Hussain cited the Ministry of Health’s Covid-19 status report today that stated except for Negri Sembilan which recorded 700 new cases, none of the other states recorded new infections above 300 cases with Perlis recording none at all.

“The wellbeing of our overall economy should not be made to suffer due to high number of recorded new cases in red zone areas,” he said.

“We propose that the efforts to control the spread of Covid and the screening and vaccination be intensified in the red zones and that only industries in the essential sectors be allowed to operate.