



---

## Malaysia

### Nationwide Movement Control Order (18 to 31 March 2020)

Masato Yamanaka, Wan May Leong

---

*\*This article is based on the information as of March 19, 2020.*

Malaysia has imposed a 14-day nationwide movement control order from 18 to 31 March 2020 (“**Order**”), pursuant to the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases (Measures within the Infected Local Areas) Regulations 2020 (“**Regulations**”). This applies to all States and Federal Territories in Malaysia.

For the latest update in Malaysia, please visit the official website of the Prime Minister’s Office at <https://www.pmo.gov.my/media-statement> (generally made available in the National Language of Malaysia only).

FAQs in relation to the Order were also released by the Prime Minister’s Office. Please see <https://www.pmo.gov.my/2020/03/movement-control-order-faq-info/>

#### 1. Movement Control Order from 18 to 31 March 2020

As of 18 March 2020, Malaysia has reported 790 confirmed cases with 2 deaths.

In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Malaysia has ordered, among others, the following emergency measures to be taken:

- (a) all foreign tourists and visitors will not be allowed to enter Malaysia. Foreigners are however allowed to leave the country;
- (b) a complete restriction of movement and assembly nationwide. The public is advised to stay at home and limit leaving their homes unless absolutely necessary; and
- (c) other than essential services, all government and private premises are to be temporarily closed.

---

This newsletter was written by its authors and does not reflect the views or opinion of Nishimura & Asahi. In addition, this newsletter is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship or to be legal advice and should not be considered to be a substitute for legal advice. Individual legal and factual circumstances should be taken into consideration in consultation with professional local counsel prior to taking any action related to the subject matter of this newsletter.

## 2. What are essential services?

Essential services are allowed to operate during this control period, with conditions imposed. Essential services include:

- water
- electricity and energy
- telecommunications
- postal
- transportation
- banking and finance
- healthcare and medical
- fire
- prisons
- solid waste management and public cleansing
- national defense and security
- sewerage
- food supply
- fuel and lubricants
- ports and airport
- radio communication
- any services and works determined by the Ministers as critical or essential to the public

*(subject to update)*

To ensure continuous supply of necessities, the National Security Council has issued further media statements to clarify what are essential and non-essential services under the Order, for example:

- no construction work, other than in-progress construction for infrastructure within buildings which may affect safety and security subject to approvals and conditions
- e-commerce is allowed
- manufacturing of critical products, including personal protective equipment (for example, masks and hand gloves), pharmaceutical products, medical and surgical equipment, is allowed subject to approvals and conditions

Conditions imposed may include operations by minimal number of employees, rotation of employees and implementation of adequate hygiene and safety measurements.

## 3. Government Services

Businesses may also be affected by the temporary closure of certain government services, such as:

- **The Registrar of Companies, Companies Commission of Malaysia:** Closed.
- **Land Offices:** Depending on the State; Offices to be closed in Kuala Lumpur and Johor.
- **The Tax Authority, Inland Revenue Board:** Telephone and online platforms are available.

## 4. Penalty

Non-compliance with the Regulations may result in imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, fine not exceeding RM1000, or both.

If a body corporate is found liable, its director, manager, company secretary or officer who is responsible or assisting in the management of any affairs of the body corporate may also be personally or jointly liable, unless he is able to prove that:

- (a) the offence was committed without his knowledge, consent or connivance; and
- (b) he took all reasonable precautions and had exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.

## 5. Next Steps

The question of whether the control period will be extended remains uncertain. On the evening of 18 March 2020, the Prime Minister has expressed that the control period may be extended depending on the then reported Coronavirus cases.

We will monitor closely the latest policy and guidelines issued by the Ministries, in particular, the National Security Council in relation to Essential Services and certain pre-approved non-Essential Services; the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (MDTCA) on matters related to the retail and distribution business; and the Immigration Department in relation to border control and immigration matters.

We will keep you posted on the latest development in Malaysia and South East Asia.

*Last Updated: 19 March 2020, 2:00pm (JST).*



[Masato Yamanaka](#)

Partner, Singapore Office Co-representative  
E-mail: [m\\_yamanaka@jurists.co.jp](mailto:m_yamanaka@jurists.co.jp)



[Wan May Leong](#)

Foreign Attorney, Singapore Office  
E-mail: [wan.may.leong@jurists.jp](mailto:wan.may.leong@jurists.jp)