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The Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (Rehda) wants the government to enact an all-encompassing force majeure exemption bill or a COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Bill to lawfully protect business owners against any form of penalisation that would be imposed under normal circumstances, in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

In a media statement on Wednesday, Rehda president Datuk Soam Heng Choon said the Movement Control Order (MCO) imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19 in the country has resulted in all non-essential activities being halted. This has impacted the livelihood of the people in all industries with many unable to perform their contractual obligations.

"For instance, in the property sector, buyers are now unable to fulfil their obligations with regards to various processes like completing documentation and progress payment which must be made within 21 days as financial institutions have scaled down operations in adherence to the MCO.

"Developers are also likely not

able to meet their completion deadlines as a result of the MCO which has affected the whole supply chain, thus it will take longer to achieve optimum output from construction activities on site," he said, adding that the bill will protect all parties from being deemed to be in breach of a contract in light of recent unprecedented events.

