



Persatuan Pemaju Hartanah Dan Perumahan Malaysia  
马来西亚房地产发展商会  
Real Estate And Housing Developers' Association Malaysia  
"Towards Sustainable Development"  
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## **WISMA REHDA**

**Kelana Jaya, Petaling Jaya**

**8 April 2020**

### ***Media Release on the Call for a COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Bill***

The two weeks Movement Control Order (MCO) which commenced on 18 March 2020 and has since been extended further to 14 April 2020 has resulted in all non-essential activities being halted. The enforcement of MCO has impacted the livelihood of the *rakyat* in all industries across the board with many parties being unable to perform their contractual obligations.

We laud and thank the Government for the many moves and measures taken to protect the *rakyat* who are facing difficulties in meeting their financial obligations during these trying times. However, we believe that an all-encompassing force majeure exemption bill or a COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Bill to lawfully protect players of all industries is much needed, to ensure that every party is safeguarded against any form of penalisation that would be imposed under normal circumstances. 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, due to the financial institutions' 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.

REHDA is of the opinion that the enactment of such bill will be beneficial not only to purchasers, developers, financiers and other property industry players, but also those in other industries that form Malaysia's economic ecosystem. It will go a long way to protect all parties to any contract from being deemed to be in breach of the contract due to the inability to perform any obligation of the contracts.

This unprecedented pandemic outbreak is expected to have long-term effects in all imaginable aspects. As such, we call upon the Government to give due consideration to the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Bill, to ensure that all Malaysians will not be further burdened unnecessarily.

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