

EMCO for Seberang Perai prison, Taman Harmoni PPR in Sandakan

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Due to rising Covid-19 cases, an enhanced movement control order (EMCO) will be imposed at the Seberang Perai prison and adjoining quarters in Penang.

An EMCO will also be imposed at the Taman Harmoni People's Housing Project (PPR) in Sandakan, Sabah.

The National Security Council (NSC) has taken into account the rising number of Covid-19 cases in the Seberang Perai prison cluster and, upon advice from the Health Ministry, has decided to implement an EMCO in the area, said Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

The senior minister (security cluster) was speaking during a press briefing aired on Facebook.

"This will be in effect from Oct 22 until Nov 4. This will result in movement to and from the area being restricted and those authorised to enter will have to

undergo Covid-19 swab tests," he said.

The number of people affected was said to be 3,262.

He said this included inmates (2,110), prison staff, and family members who live in the quarters (1,000), prison staff who do not live in the quarters (120), and civil servants (32).

"Detainees who will be released during the EMCO period will be isolated and quarantined at a location decided upon by the Penang State Disaster Management Committee namely at the Mara Training Institute of Excellence (MEC), Seberang District Perai Selatan until the end of the quarantine period."

Ismail said family members would not be able to visit those in prison during this time, a rule that was already in effect, as announced by the Prisons Department last week.

He added that the Taman Harmoni PPR flats in Sandakan was another area that would be under EMCO.

"This will be in effect from Oct 23 until Nov 5," he said, adding that 870 housing units with a total population of 4,481 would be impacted.

With the implementation of this order, all residents are required to comply with the prescribed SOPs, and take note of the following:

- All residents in the affected areas are not allowed to leave their respective homes.
- For emergency cases such as illness and death, they are allowed to exit but need to submit an application to the police.
- The Health Ministry will conduct targeted screening on all residents involved.
- Food supplies will be distributed by the state government which will be coordinated by the State Disaster Operations Control Center.
- To ensure compliance with this order, the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM), Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM), Public Defense Forces Malaysia (APM), Department of Volunteers Malaysia (Rela), local authorities, and other authorised officers will control the entire area.

More details on EMCO SOPs can be found on the NSC website.

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