

Ismail Sabri chuckles over confusion on 'work from home' SOPs

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Senior Minister (Defence Cluster) Ismail Sabri Yaakob chuckled today over the public's confusion over the government's work-from-home order, remarking that perhaps many are too impatient to wait for further details from relevant authorities.

He said although he already specified in his announcement that the director-general of public service and International Trade and Industry Ministry will furnish further details of the order, members of the public appear confused and were seeking more information.

"I saw since last night the whole country was in chaos. Many were confused although I already said yesterday the announcement was a general announcement that we agreed to issue a work-from-home order.

"I said the public service director-general and Miti will provide more details today," Ismail said while chuckling.

The senior minister was speaking during his daily press conference which was aired live over Facebook. The broadcast this evening was just six hours before the order was supposed to take effect.

"Perhaps many are impatient although the order only comes into effect tomorrow. Many are impatient, asking around, and so on," he added.

He also clarified that the order does not affect all industries and civil servants, but only industries under Miti's purview and civil servants under the public service director-general's purview.

Giving examples, he said sectors such as retail, food, agriculture and plantations, sundry shops, transportation services, police, and armed forces, are all allowed to continue operating as usual as per standard operating procedures.

The order affects some 800,000 workers in industrial sectors and 200,000 workers in public sectors who are in management or supervisory roles.

The affected areas are Sabah, Labuan, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, and Putrajaya, until the end of their respective conditional MCOs.

Ismail also reversed yesterday's announcement that all those who want to

continue to work from offices in red zones are required to undergo Covid-19 testing.

Instead, testing is mandatory only for foreign workers working in the construction sector and as security guards in red zones. For other workers, testing is merely “highly recommended”.

Earlier today, Miti Minister Azmin Ali (photo) said a maximum of 10 percent of management and supervisory employees will be allowed to work in the office.

This is for those whose duties include accounting, finance, administration, legal, planning, and IT.

However, they are only allowed to be in the office for four hours, from 10am to 2pm, three days a week.

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