

'MEET TRADERS TO KNOW THEIR ISSUES'

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Authorities must go to the ground to help traders restart their businesses, says PM

MUAR

PRIME Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday called on local authorities and government agencies to be more proactive by going to the ground to meet traders to get to know their problems.

He said the move should be taken to assist them in restarting their businesses which have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"On this matter, there should be a different approach carried out so that the efforts by the government to regenerate the economy are successfully implemented.

"If before this, traders and operators had to refer to the district council, local authorities or chambers of commerce, now local authorities and government agencies need to go to the ground to meet traders to get to know



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin meeting representatives of Muar district traders and industries at the Muar district office in Johor yesterday. PIC BY MOHD AZREN JAMALUDIN

their problems.

"This is also part of the new normal which government bodies must get used to as the way we work."

The prime minister stressed that Malaysia should not lag behind other countries in rehabil-

itating the economy, more so when it has been recognised as among the best countries in containing the spread of Covid-19.

Taking cognizance of this, the government made firm and bold decisions to reopen various economic sectors in stages to ensure

businesses and industries could resume their activities.

"I would like to give a reminder that there should not be unnecessary restrictions and obstacles to businesses which have been allowed to restart their operation.

"We must facilitate them. If they do not have a licence, ease their application and expedite the approval process for them," said the Pagoh MP, adding that the economic sector in many countries had been badly affected and Malaysia was not exempted from the impact.

Earlier, at a closed-door session which lasted more than two hours, the prime minister held a dialogue with 37 representatives of trader and industry associations from Muar district at the Muar district office.

The associations were from small and medium industries, breeders, furniture manufacturers, bus operators, night and public market traders, old folks home operators as well as contractor associations and the Muar Indian Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of the International Trade and Industry Ministry, Finance Ministry's Laksana unit, Health Ministry, Housing and Local Government Ministry and the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry.

The meeting was held as Muar is Malaysia's furniture hub occupying over 400ha in Bakri.

Apart from that, it also took into consideration that Muar is a food haven with various tourist attractions. **Bernama**