

# PM URGES COMPASSION BEFORE COMPOUNDS

## Enforcement officers advised to consider offenders' circumstances before slapping fines on them

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**W**HILE it is important to be firm to ensure standard operating procedures are followed, enforcement officers must be compassionate when issuing compounds to offenders. Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said enforcement officers should take into account an offender's financial ability before issuing a fine. He said many Malaysians operated small to medium businesses and a large compound would burden them. "I would like to urge enforcement agencies that are monitoring the public's compliance with the SOPs to use a more prudent approach. "I understand the people's difficulties in finding a source of income to ensure their survival

during this pandemic.

"Some try to run small businesses to cover their expenses by selling burgers, snacks, drinks or their own crops. These are not the owners of large companies or business establishments.

"Firmness is important to make sure the rules are followed but at the same time, discretion and empathy are needed when taking action so our efforts to educate the community will be more acceptable," he said in a speech when officiating at the Covid-19 Green Zone Community Competition at Perdana Putra, Putrajaya yesterday.

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Special Functions) Datuk Seri Redzuan Yusof, Rural Development Minister Datuk Dr Abdul Latiff Ahmad and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Zuraida Kamaruddin.

On Sunday, a burger seller in Kelantan was compounded

RM50,000 by police for flouting Movement Control Order rules by operating after 10pm.

It was reported that the trader was selling burgers in front of his house until 11.30pm.

Yesterday, the Health Ministry said it would re-evaluate this case to either reduce or waive the fine.

On Monday, a *colek* seller, also in Kelantan, was slapped with the same fine by police officers who came to his stall at 11.20pm.

The two incidents sparked public outcry and calls for the government to have compassion when issuing fines, especially during the Covid-19 outbreak and Ramadan.

Muhyiddin hoped that enforcement agencies and the public would learn to cooperate to ensure the people would be spared from Covid-19 infections.

"If this attitude of reminding each other is practised, I am confident that we can cultivate new norms in our lives."