

Eateries, convenience stores in Sabah must still operate until 10pm for now, says Masidi

The Star 23.11.2020

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Monday, 23 Nov 2020



KOTA KINABALU: Sabah will not immediately allow for certain businesses to operate beyond 10pm, says state Covid-19 spokesman Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun.

He said the state Covid-19 management committee would discuss and consider the matter before deciding to allow for eateries, convenience stores and petrol stations to operate till midnight in states under the condition movement control order (MCO).

He was commenting on Senior Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob's announcement earlier Monday that restaurants and businesses such as convenience stores and petrol stations in states under the conditional MCO can now operate until midnight with immediate effect.

"We will still allow them to operate till 10pm for now," said Masidi.

On calls for Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students wishing to go back to their hometowns including Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia, Masidi said that UMS management had agreed to allow students to go home with the approval of their respective faculties.

"They should also obtain parents or guardians' consent letters to leave the campus," he added.

However, he said students who go back home would not be allowed to re-enter the campus until further notice.

He said the university was also providing food supplies as well as hand sanitisers and face masks for the students in the campus while carrying out targeted Covid-19 tests to ensure that they were free of the virus.

"Students are also provided online counselling if needed. The university has set up a 24-hour student affairs operations room," he added.

On a question about the number of cases in Sabah showing signs of decline, Masidi said they would have to monitor it for a while longer as they were carrying out targeted Covid-19 tests in several areas.

"Our figures can be like yoyo, up and down," Masidi said, but added that there were signs of it improving.

Sabah recorded a total 289 new Covid-19 cases with no new clusters detected.

On the use of wristbands, Masidi said that all those ordered to be quarantined for close contact, waiting for their test results and those returning from overseas must wear the band for 14-days.

However, he said only those who underwent Covid-19 screening need to wear it till the results are out.