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Higher learning institutions call for clearer CMCO guidelines

PETALING JAYA: Clear guidelines must be given to higher learning institutions (HEIs) to maintain structure and avoid confusion amid the conditional movement control order (MCO), said National Association of Private Educational Institutions president Elajsolan Mohan.

He said private higher learning institutions were still waiting for an announcement to be made by the Higher Education Ministry.

"Private HEIs are waiting for MoHE's circular and clear guidelines for this CMCO. Some are unclear and we are not sure if it applies to administrative staff as well.

"Also, some students may be having their examinations during the period. They would need clear guidelines on what to do and what not to do" he said.

Taking into consideration the current spike in Covid-19 cases, Elajsolan added that all learning institutions had no choice but to act on directives of the MoHE, the Education Ministry, Health Ministry and National Security Council (NSC).

"MoE is considerate and understanding as they have allowed students taking the IGCSE examination to go on.

"The local IGCSE office had given supporting letters to schools involved in the examination, which would be needed to show authorities," he said, pointing out that the dates of the examinations were in line with the central examination board in the UK and worldwide and could not be changed.

Meanwhile, HEIs have announced to students that online or virtual classes will be conducted in light of the conditional MCO.

Noting that the university has an interactive virtual student hub dedicated to providing students with the right contacts and support, Monash University Malaysia president and pro vice-chancellor Prof Andrew Walker said students and lecturers would be continuing with teaching and learning activities online for semester two.

"Monash ensures that our students remain on track in receiving their qualifications. We have been developing online and blended learning tools for more than a decade," said Prof Walker.



Taylor's University vice-chancellor and president Prof Michael Driscoll said the Taylor's Lakeside Campus would be closed throughout the conditional MCO and that all teaching and learning activities would continue online.

Students, he said, are encouraged to log onto module sites via Taylor's learning management system for information about teaching and learning sessions, as well as to reach out to programme directors and lecturers.

"All staff, except for those in essential services, are to work from home. Staff working in essential services and those accessing the campus in exceptional cases will need to obtain a Letter of Authorisation from respective department heads.

Noting that converting back to 100% online learning mode of study would not be an issue, Management and Science University (MSU) president Prof Tan Sri Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid said students were allowed to return to

campus to use facilities such as the Internet, only if they followed the safety guidelines stipulated by the NSC, Health Ministry and MoHE.

"MSU shall remain open and operational as usual. However, teaching and learning will proceed through online teaching aids and search engines, email, WhatsApp, YouTube and other similar platforms."

Meanwhile, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College's (TAR UC) Kuala Lumpur main campus will be closed during the conditional MCO period.

"Face-to-face teaching and learning at TAR UC Kuala Lumpur will be switched to online. As for the existing online learning activities, they will continue as planned," read a statement from the institution.

