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DATE: 19 JANUARY 2021

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND PEOPLE PROTECTION (PERLINDUNGAN EKONOMI & RAKYAT MALAYSIA, PERMAI) ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

Reference is made to the [PRIME MINISTER'S \(PM\) SPEECH TEXT](#) date 18 January 2021. Highlights of the PM's speech are as follows:

1. A total of 22 initiatives will be implemented under [PERMAI assistance package](#), valued at RM15 billion.
2. Employers are advised to **tighten the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**, improve their foreign workers' accommodation and movement control as well as increase screening of employees to support efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19.
3. **Stepping up Testing of Employees** – The Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) is involved in the COVID-19 Screening Test Programme on registered foreign workers. The cost of screening will be borne fully by SOCSO in the red zones areas to identify possible COVID-19 clusters at workplace. The scope for tax relief relating to full health screening expenses, has increased from RM500 to RM1,000 in Budget 2021. This has now been expanded to also cover COVID-19 screening.
4. The **moratorium** facility, including extension of the moratorium and restructuring of loan repayment will continue to be offered by banks. For borrowers facing difficulties in dealing with banks, Bank Negara Malaysia and the Credit Counselling and Debt Management Agency (AKPK) are ready to assist and advise borrowers through telephone or online. For any inquiries or complaints, contact BNMTELELINK at <https://telelink.bnm.gov.my> or AKPK at +603-2616 7766 to seek guidance and explore other options for assistance.
5. **The Wage Subsidy Program 3.0 under SOCSO will be enhanced** whereby all employers operating in the MCO states will be eligible to apply, irrespective of sector. For a period of **one month**, eligible employers will receive a wage subsidy of RM600 for each of their employee earning less than RM4,000. In addition, the wage subsidy which has an eligible limit of 200 employees for each employer will be increased to 500 employees.
6. The **Prihatin Special Grant Plus assistance** is expanded to cover 500,000 SMEs in the seven MCO states with a payment of RM1,000 each, while 300,000 SMEs in other states (non-MCO) will receive RM500 each.
7. The **Danajamin Guarantee Scheme (SJPD)** amounting to RM50 billion is enhanced to support the private sector's growth and boost the country's economy:
 - (i) Increase the maximum financing from RM500 million to RM1 billion;
 - (ii) Expand the scope of financing to cover working capital with a guarantee period of up to 10 years;
 - (iii) Allow foreign-owned companies operating in Malaysia to also obtain the SJPD guarantee provided that Malaysian employees account for at least 75 percent of their workforce.

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8. **Electricity rebates** will be given to all Tenaga National Bhd (TNB) users, domestic and non-domestic at a rate of 2 cents per kilowatt-hour, which is equivalent to a reduction in electricity bills of up to 9 percent for a period of 6 months, from **1 January to 30 June 2021**.

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