



For immediate release

Press statement

Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry – thankful for recognition and ready to resume operations gradually to supply materials and components to essential industries amid the Movement Control Order (MCO)

MISIF would like to express its gratitude to the Government, especially the National Security Council (NSC), Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Health (MOH) and other relevant authorities, for the various initiatives to mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 and the Movement Control Order (MCO). Among the noteworthy economic initiatives are the RM250 billion Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package, the additional RM10 billion economic package for SMEs and the latest approval for additional critical economic sectors, including the iron and steel industry, to operate in phases on condition of strict adherence to health and safety guidelines.

Such pro-active and responsive measures would assist in balancing the country’s economic sustainability and the effectiveness of the MCO in ensuring the health and safety of the people. In fact, stoppage of industrial operation has engendered losses during the MCO period. For instance, the iron and steel industry is expected to suffer an estimated loss of RM 3.2 billion in revenue throughout the 28 days of the MCO and first extension, excluding substantial losses in fixed costs and other losses of business opportunities. It is also expected more adverse economic impact to be endured by the Malaysian iron and steel industry such as potential 50% of job losses in the iron and steel industry if economic stimulus packages were not effectively implemented post-MCO.

MISIF is also thankful to the Government for the recognition of the Malaysian iron and steel industry among the additional critical economic sectors allowed to operate in phases. The iron and steel industry supports and complements other major industry sectors well, namely construction, electrical & electronics, oil & gas, automotive, machinery & equipment, aerospace, furniture and transportation. Most of these industries are already listed as essential items/products and would need the required components and supply of iron and steel materials or products.

Since the announcement by MITI on 10th April 2020 concerning the Government’s decision to allow additional critical economic sectors to operate in phases, MISIF members have subsequently submitted their applications to MITI for approval to resume operations. We are hopeful that MITI would consider the applications favourably and expedite the approval process for the restart of iron and steel manufacturing operations.

As responsible corporate citizens, MISIF and its members are enthusiastic and ever ready to support and cooperate with the Government in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring the sustainability of the country’s economy post MCO and COVID-19. In this regard, MISIF has been pro-active and already developed a Standard Operating Procedure on Resumption of Company’s Operations during MCO for reference by MISIF members during the MCO period and immediately thereafter till the end of the Covid-19 pandemic as determined by authorities. This SOP serves as a guide to MISIF members on the recommended health and safety precautions, and measures that should be adopted to mitigate or to minimize the impact of Covid-19 on employees and visitors within



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the premises. This SOP will be a useful source of reference for members as they comply with the prevailing requirements set by MOH and guidelines by other relevant enforcement agencies.

About MISIF

MISIF is the national industry association for manufacturers of iron and steel products. MISIF was officially registered in the year of 1981 to promote the Malaysian steel industry domestically and internationally. The members of MISIF engage in the whole value chain of iron and steel products, which comprise the upstream, mid-stream and downstream sectors. To date, MISIF has a total of 133 iron and steel companies that are registered as a member of MISIF. MISIF is actively serving as a channel of communication between the industry and the Government to promote the sustainability and continuity of the iron and steel businesses.

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