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# SOP for condos in the works

## For now, it's up to building managements, says minister

By RAHIMY RAHIM  
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**PETALING JAYA:** The Housing and Local Government Ministry will come up with a standard operating procedure (SOP) to protect residents at private condominiums and apartments during the movement control order (MCO) period.

Its minister Zuraida Kamaruddin said although it was up to the building managements to put in measures such as temperature checks, it would be good to have an SOP.

"We shall develop an SOP that is in line with the recommendations by the National Security Council and the Health Ministry," she said yesterday.

She was asked to comment whether private apartments are allowed to stop residents from entering premises if they have a fever.

A check by *The Star* showed that some condominiums in the Klang Valley have put up measures, including temperature screening and enforced social distancing.

At the moment, supermarkets and even police roadblocks in the Klang Valley are equipped with infrared thermometers.

Zuraida said any issues related to private dwellings fell under the purview of the respective Joint



**Restricted entry:** A security guard checking the temperature of a resident at the entrance of a condominium in Ara Damansara.

Management Bodies (JMBs) or Management Corporations (MCs).

Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (Rehda) president Datuk Soam Heng Choon said it was up to the respective JMB or MC to implement their own measures with regard to non-residents.

"They cannot refuse residents entry but can only advise them to seek medical treatment," he said.

Former Rehda president Datuk

Seri Fateh Iskandar Mohamed Mansor concurred, saying JMBs or MCs play a prominent role in determining what to impose.

"There must be clear guidelines on this. If the majority supports the guidelines, they can implement them," he said.

A Petaling Jaya resident who only wanted to be known as Linda Lui said temperature checks in her building started about a week after MCO began on March 18.

"There was a notice outside my apartment in Ara Damansara, saying that I have to undergo temperature checks before I can go in," she said.

She said that while it was a good move, she wondered whether it would be effective in curbing the spread of Covid-19.

"While some residents may walk in, there are some who drive in, they are not subject to temperature checks," she said.

Marketing executive Anisa Hadiputri said she noticed that her condominium management had installed a temporary guard post for temperature checks as soon as the MCO started.

Anisa, 24, supported the move as she said it gave residents an added sense of security.

"I would feel safer if the temperatures are checked, for sure," she said.

Like Lui, Anisa also wondered about the effectiveness of the move as it was not strictly enforced in her building.

"On the two occasions when I had to leave my unit and come back during the MCO period, my temperature was never checked.

"And I assume this is the same case for guests as well. They do check, but they lack consistency," she added.