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OVER 19,000 APPLICATIONS

1,856 CONTRACTORS GET GREEN LIGHT TO OPERATE

Those given approval must strictly adhere to rules, says minister

KUALA LUMPUR

A TOTAL of 19,077 construction companies and those from the industry had applied to operate during the Movement Control Order (MCO), Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said.

However, he said, the International Trade and Industry Ministry rejected 7,387 applications and allowed only 1,856 contractors to operate.

He said those given the approval were told to strictly adhere to the MCO rules. He said they were also warned against exploiting the situation following the government's decision to allow several pockets of the construction industry to resume operations during the MCO.

He said among the applications that were being reviewed by the government was from MRT Cor-



Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof speaking at a press conference in Putrajaya yesterday.
BERNAMA PIC

poration Sdn Bhd, the owner of the mass rapid transit project in the Klang Valley.

"MRT's application is pending since the Construction Industry Development Board has not gone through it yet for approval," he told a press conference that was broadcast live on television stations.

He said the East Coast Rail Link project that was temporarily halted was not among the companies that applied to resume operations.

Fadillah said the Works Ministry, along with the Local Government and Housing Ministry,

Construction Industry Development Board, Occupational Safety and Health, Public Works and Irrigation and Drainage Departments, would monitor the situation and act as enforcement authorities to ensure everyone toed the line.

"Any construction company found to have breached any of the MCO rules will be blacklisted and even charged in court."

Fadillah said small construction companies under the G1 and G2 categories were among those prioritised to resume operations during the MCO.

The G1 and G2 category con-

tractors include those whose projects are below RM200,000 and those not exceeding RM500,000, respectively.

Fadillah said 13 categories of projects had been allowed to resume, namely those which did not require many workers on site, maintenance and construction works that had achieved 90 percent of progress and critical works to ensure the safety of construction structures like slope works, tunnels, bridges and viaducts, and land surveys.

He said all professional services related to construction and project management, including approving payments for construction work in progress, would be allowed to resume operations.

He said contractors must make sure they minimise the number of workers on site by at least half of what they originally had.

"Companies must also provide their workers with basic facilities such as clean workers' quarters and transportation to and from the work site, monitor their movement and regulate good hygiene practices and social distancing among the workers as precautionary measures against Covid-19."