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Rehda, MBAM want government to bear construction workers' testing costs

The Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (Rehda) Malaysia and Master Builders Association Malaysia (MBAM) are appealing to the government to bear the cost for Covid-19 tests for construction workers. They also reiterated a call to introduce a Temporary Measures Bill to protect all contracting parties from unnecessary litigation as soon as possible.

Following the resumption of construction works, if it is found that the site's contractor has failed to practise the Site Operating Procedures (SOPs) as per the guidelines issued by the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) and caused a Covid-19 outbreak in the site, the contractor shall be responsible for all cost in resolving the outbreak.

"The estimated cost per swab test is around RM350 to RM650 per person, depending on volume. The high cost per person translates to a considerable amount that contractors need to bear as a construction site typically has hundreds of workers. This would incur heavy costs to construction companies, adding to all other mobilisation costs as well as losses since the beginning of the Movement Control Order (MCO) on March 18," they said.

They also reiterated their call for a Force Majeure Bill or a Legislative Intervention that will statutorily protect all contracting parties from unnecessary litigation and provide temporary relief for businesses and individuals who are unable to meet their contractual obligations during this period.