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5 HOME BUSINESS

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The move is said to also benefit those in other industries

BY SYAHIRAH SYED JAAFAR

KUALA LUMPUR: The Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (Rehda) is calling for the government to enact a force majeure exemption bill or a "Covid-19 (Temporary Measures) Bill" to lawfully protect players of all industries during the movement control order (MCO) period.

In a statement yesterday, Rehda president Datuk Soam Heng Choon said the enforcement of the MCO has impacted the livelihood of the rakyat in all industries across the board, with many parties being unable to perform their contractual obligations.

The bill therefore is to ensure that every party is safeguarded

against any form of penalisation that would be imposed under normal circumstances, he said.

"For instance, in the property sector, buyers are now unable to fulfil their obligations with regard to various processes like completing documentation and progress payments, which must be made within 21 days, due to the financial institutions' scaled down operations in adherence to the MCO.

"Developers are also likely not able to meet their completion deadlines as a result of the MCO, which has affected the whole supply chain, thus it will take longer to achieve optimum output from construction activities on-site," he said.

Soam said Rehda is of the opin-

ion that the enactment of such a bill will be beneficial not only to purchasers, developers, financiers and other property industry players, but also those in other industries that form Malaysia's economic ecosystem.

"It will go a long way to protect all parties to any contract from being deemed to be in breach of the contract due to the inability to perform any obligation of the contracts.

"This unprecedented pandemic outbreak is expected to have long-term effects in all imaginable aspects. As such, we call upon the government to give due consideration to the Covid-19 (Temporary Measures) Bill to ensure that all Malaysians will not be further burdened unnecessarily," he said.