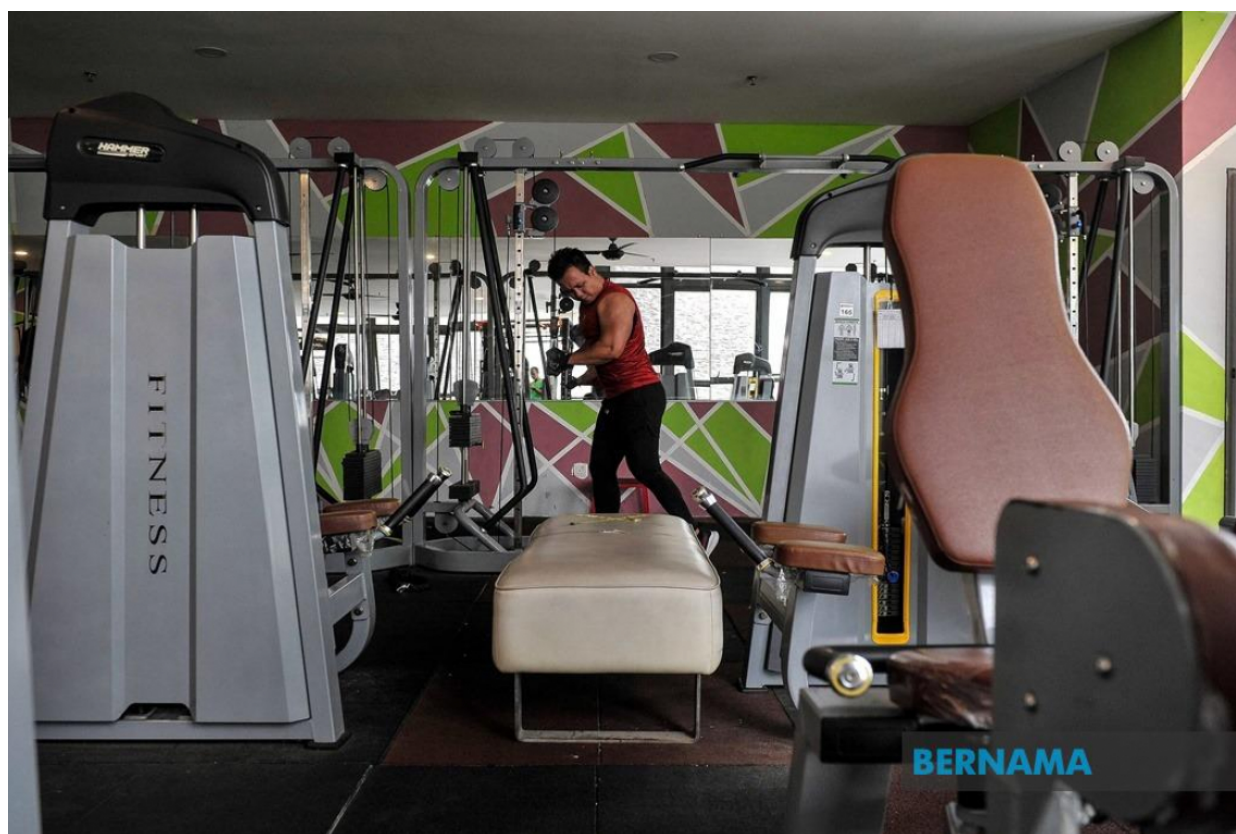




PRESS CITATIONS

With new sectors reopening, remain vigilant and adhere to SOPs – Tengku Zafrul

PRESS CITATIONS | 19 SEPTEMBER 2021



KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 19 – The public must remain vigilant and continue to adhere to standard operating procedures (SOP) when the government reopens more sectors once the nation enters the endemic phase, Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz said.

He said this was important as current developments show there are still new COVID-19 clusters being detected among certain sectors.

These clusters are triggered when certain segments of society become complacent and fail to observe SOPs when more economic sectors reopen, adding that this was quite evident when certain social activities were permitted recently, he said.

“These clusters emerge because we tend to think that things are back to normal and we do not have to comply with the SOPs any longer.

“From social sector activities observed recently, there are many who seem to have forgotten about SOPs,” he said

when discussing the National Recovery Plan (PPN) on RTM's Optik @ Selamat Pagi Malaysia talk show today on how society can contribute towards its success.

At the same time, Tengku Zafrul said the Finance Ministry was open to helping those economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, adding that for the first time in the nation's history, the ministry had issued a Pre-Budget Statement (PBS) for Budget 2022.

He said the people have also been given the opportunity to engage with ministry officials virtually and in writing, while public consultation papers are issued for experts' in-depth views.

"Those are our two focuses to help the people and also businesses in the near future and also to make plans for 2022 for the country's recovery.

"We (Finance Ministry) are quite optimistic, we can see that the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Bank's forecast and projections for Malaysia next year are quite positive," he said.

Besides this, Tengku Zafrul, who is also PPN Coordinating Minister, said PPN is a dynamic plan that uses current data for decisions to be brought to the National Security Council (MKN) and the pandemic management committee.

He said where decisions are concerned, PPN uses the latest reports not only sourced within Malaysia but also internationally.

"(COVID-19 vaccine) booster shots, for example, the Health Ministry has held discussions and the Health Minister has in fact announced that we will begin booster shots, Insya-Allah, very soon. PPN focuses on both the economic and social sectors," he said.

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