



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE SARAWAK**

#### **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) For Reopening of Tourism, Arts and Culture Sector During RMCO**

Arising from the announcement of Prime Minister on the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) on 10 June 2020, specific activities under tourism, arts and culture sector has been allowed to resume operation.

With the approval of the Sarawak State Disaster Management Committee (SDMC), specific activities of the tourism, arts and culture sector in Sarawak under the purview of my Ministry will be allowed to operate from 17 June 2020.

#### **Tourism**

For tourism, tour operators, tour guides, homestays, hotels, adventure and extreme tourism, scuba diving and snorkeling, theme parks (dry park only) will be allowed to operate by complying to the SOPs and guidelines established by State Disaster Management Committee (SDMC).

Basic guidelines on social distancing, personal hygiene, temperature scanning, sanitization of public facilities should be observed. Staff, guests and contractors must download MySejahtera and COVIDTrace Sarawak apps to facilitate necessary contact tracing.

Tour Operators can receive and sell bookings for domestic tour packages and activities which have been allowed by the government. Overseas travel packages are still not allowed as at this moment.

Operators are encouraged to do tour packages promotion through online marketing. No promotional exhibition or roadshows are allowed until authorized by the government.

Tour guides are responsible to ensure that necessary compliance to social distancing and personal hygiene observed by the tourists throughout their guidance.

Hoteliers are to limit the capacity of a meeting room or conference hall up to 50% from its original capacity and attendees should practice social distancing of 1 meter while on the move or standing. A record of attendee's details must be kept for at least 6 months. Sauna, swimming pool, Lounge, pub, bar, Karaoke and buffet restaurant are not allowed.

## **Arts and Culture**

### **Museums, Galleries, Archive, Handicraft Centres And Memorials**

For arts and culture sector, museums, galleries, archive, handicraft centres and memorials can be opened to public from 17 June 2020 by observing the necessary SOPs. Visitors are not allowed to use interactive area. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by adults.

### **Creative Industry Sector - Production House And Studios**

Creative Industry sector such as production house and studios can start operation of their production activities for music, filming, videography, photography, graphic design and animation with effect from 17 June 2020 by observing the necessary SOPs.

The production company must observe and comply with the regulation and licensing conditions under Akta Perbadanan Kemajuan Filem Nasional Malaysia (Akta 244) and also Filming Permit issued by Sarawak State Government.

The filming production crew shall provide their traveling record for the past 4 weeks for applications of the necessary license and permits before they can start their operation. MySejahtera and COVIDtrace Sarawak are compulsory to be downloaded and registered by all the production crew.

## **Music/Dance/Theatre Schools and Photography Studios**

All music/dance/theatre schools and photography studios are also allowed to operate with effect on 17 June 2020 by observing the necessary SOPs.

Participants/students below 18 years old, the operator must seek for their parent's approval with valid proof before conducting any activities. To encourage participants/students to bring & use their own instruments (individual instruments like keyboard, violin, guitar, etc.).

## **National Parks**

National Parks under the management of Sarawak Forestry Corporation will be opened to visitors from 17 June 2020 in stages as follows:-

List of National Parks to be opened on 17 June 2020:

Kubah NP, Gunung Gading NP, Tanjung Datu NP, Santubong NP, Talang-Satang NP, Wind/Fairy Cave NP, Batang Ai NP, Samajaya NP, Maludam NP, Gunung Mulu NP, Lambir NP, Niah NP, Loagan Bunut NP and Pulong Tau NP.

List of National Parks to be opened on 22 June 2020:

Bako NP, Semenggoh WC, Kuching Wetland NP and Miri-Sibuti Coral Reef NP

For national park, Leisure & adventure activities, nature walk, caving, snorkeling & scuba diving with/without company of park guide, wildlife viewing activities and expedition activity in totally protected areas and wildlife centres are allowed.

However, for Trekking: Leisure– only a maximum of 10 pax per group are allowed to enter at any one time per trail. Adventure - only a minimum of 2 and maximum of 8 people per group are allowed to enter at any one time per trail.

Only specific forest trails (not exceeding 3-5 hour –walk) are allowed to be accessed. Adventure Caving - only a minimum of 2 and maximum of 8 people per group are allowed to enter at anytime and must be guided.

### **SOPs Downloadable from Ministry's Website**

The details of the said SOPs can be downloaded through the Ministry's website at [mtac.sarawak.gov.my](http://mtac.sarawak.gov.my).

**Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Sarawak**

**15 JUNE 2020 at 5.00pm**