

MSM Malaysia's Penang subsidiary resumes operations after shutdown due to Covid-19 cases

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KUALA LUMPUR (June 16): MSM Malaysia Holdings Bhd said it has received the nod from the Ministry of Health to resume its Penang operations yesterday (June 15) after a temporary shutdown from June 8 due to Covid-19 cases recorded on-site.

The suspension involving its unit MSM Prai Bhd was lifted two days early from the initial date of June 17, MSM said.

“The estimated impact of the temporary suspension based on the initial assessment to the company’s revenue and earnings is less than 5% for the financial year ending Dec 31, 2021.

“The company is also actively pursuing to claim the losses incurred during the suspension from the insurer,” it said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia.

MSM group chief executive officer Syed Feizal Syed Mohammad said in a release: “MSM Prai will recommence its refinery operations in stages. However, barring any unprecedented setback to the operations, MSM Prai is expected to promptly regain its production momentum in view of the refinery’s reliable performance and consistent production capabilities.

“We will continue [to] monitor the operational progress whilst ensuring stringent preventive measures are being enforced to address the health, safety and wellbeing of our employees. MSM has also applied for a priority request on the vaccination program to be carried out for all employees under the group following MSM is considered as one of the essential food producers.”

MSM added the Penang unit has undergone Covid-19 screening for all 756 of its employees there on June 7 and 8, where eight persons who tested positive were immediately placed under quarantine with subsequent contact tracing for further testing.

“With regards to the Covid-19 pandemic, the company will continue to put in place stringent Covid-19 prevention measures in accordance with the SOP and guidelines issued by the government to minimise the impact of Covid-19 to its employees and business operations,” it said.

Shares of MSM rose one sen or 0.78% to RM1.30 at noon market break, valuing the sugar refiner at RM913.87 million.

Edited by Joyce Goh

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