

Headline	Every bit of aid helps as impact of the outbreak bites		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	20 Mar 2020	Language	English
Circulation	175,986	Readership	527,958
Section	Nation	Page No	19
ArticleSize	127 cm ²	Journalist	N/A
PR Value	RM 9,108		



Every bit of aid helps as impact of the outbreak bites

NON-ESSENTIAL businesses must close during the movement control order period, thereby affecting their income. I am sure many of these businesses are operated on a very tight budget and are dependent on a regular income.

The worry for most owners and employees of these businesses is that rental, utility bills, business and housing loan repayments, car

loan instalments and other loans still need to be paid irrespective of whether income is being generated. This causes undue hardship.

Referring to the call soliciting donations for victims of Covid-19, the government should consider asking utility companies like Tenaga Nasional, telco companies and Syabas to waive their respective charges.

Financial institutions should also be asked to give a moratorium on the repayment of loans and landlords to waive two weeks' rent on housing and business premises.

Astro has done its bit by giving free access to all movie channels during this period. The Inland Revenue Board has extended the time for submitting income tax returns and payment of the March

2020 instalment. The Kuala Lumpur Land office has waived any penalties that may be incurred during this period.

Kudos to them. Isn't it time for the utility and telco companies and financial institutions to also do their bit for the nation?

SHEILA DE COSTA
Seri Kembangan, Selangor