



# Fact-checking will help us become media smart

May 27, 2023 @ 12:45am



Fake news is bad, but fake medical news has a serious debilitating effect on the nation. - NSTP file pic

**LETTERS:** The Internet has enabled a whole new way to publish, share and disseminate information, but with little regulation or editorial standards.

Many people get news from social media sites, and it can be difficult to tell whether the information is credible. The Internet has created a fertile ground for fake news.

Realising this, Google and Facebook are taking initiatives to manage fake news by introducing regular reports and flagging tools in their websites.

Similarly, media organisations, like the BBC, have established fact-checking websites about the news.



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Developments in digital media literacy skills will help the young navigate the Internet.

Kudos too to the Health Ministry for combating fake news through social media.

The ministry's Facebook account updates the health situation in the country, and this ensures that people have the correct information.





Dr Amalina Bakri.

Debunking fake news is a complex process, and it requires the involvement of diverse inputs, including regulatory bodies, plus the teaching of critical thinking and digital literacy.

Fake news is bad, but fake medical news has a serious debilitating effect on the nation.

It is good that some medical practitioners share health information on social media, like Dr Imelda Balchin and Dr Amalina Bakri.

Their sharing on social media speaks of good science, and it's often laced with humour. Together, let us become media smart.

**DR AIFA ROZAINI MOHD RADZOL**

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The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the New Straits Times



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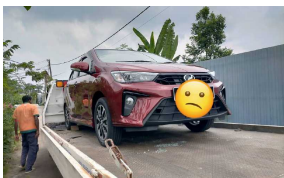
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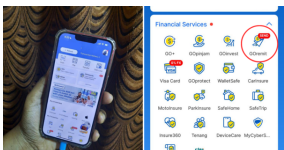
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