

ALI SALMAN



# NEW MEDIA

in times of pandemic



Insights from  
*Malaysia*

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## **NEW MEDIA IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC: INSIGHTS FROM MALAYSIA**

First publication: May 2023  
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Published by:  
**Ninidoll House Production**  
Bachok, Kelantan  
Website: [www.ninidollebookhouse.com](http://www.ninidollebookhouse.com)  
Email: [ninidollhouseproduction@gmail.com](mailto:ninidollhouseproduction@gmail.com)



**e ISBN 978-629-97036-7-9**

# Disclaimer

The contents of this e-book is solely based on the understanding, knowledge and experience of the author. The author makes no guarantees concerning the level of relevance you may experience by following the contents in this e-book.

This e-book is the final product from a challenge that the author accepted during *Bengkel Penulisan dan Penerbitan eBuku* (eBook Writing and Publishing Workshop) on 10 November 2021. The development of this e-book was subjected to a limited time constraint. So, there will possibly be a room for improvement needed from time to time.

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# Opening Remarks

With the break out of health pandemic – covid19, people all over the world have been affected. Malaysia is not exempted from this effect, making the civil society and the authorities looking for the best possible ways to mitigate the effect of covid19 on the socio-economic setting. In the following lines, the author brings you his thoughts regarding COVID-19 and the Movement Control Order (MCO), which are summaries of the collection of articles published in Malaysian newspapers mainly in BERNAMA, The Star, and others. The chapters range from Life under the MCO, couple with the role of new media in facilitating how we cope with the pandemic. Since the introduction of vaccine is seen as an important step to curbing the pandemic, vaccine acceptance has to be encouraged, hence, the inclusion of chapter on issues surrounding vaccine acceptance.

*Ali Salman*



# LIFE UNDER MCO NOT ALL THAT BAD

Since March 18, 2020 Malaysians have woken up to the Movement Control Order (MCO) - a “new normal” - due to the COVID-19 pandemic which took the world by surprise. Life has not been the same since, with everyone trying to adapt to the new situation, especially to keep making ends meet.

For us in the academic fraternity, life under the MCO has not been that bad as we manage to sail through by fully adopting to online media. Meetings and lectures are now being conducted using the available online technology, in other words online learning and work.





Thanks to the Internet and, of course, our various institutions for conducting how-to workshops online, we have been able to take off smoothly in our new journey to deliver our lectures via the Internet.

In fact, I can safely say that in these past few weeks, lecturers have accustomed themselves to using online applications, and most have mastered one or two of these to use for meetings and lectures.

In the beginning of the MCO leading to online teaching, I used WhatsApp Web to conduct my lectures since some of my students have limited access to the Internet. It worked like magic and my students were happy.



## EASING OF MCO TO AVOID ECONOMIC LOSSES

Despite the easing of the Movement Control Order (MCO) to allow for some normalcy, the SOPs agreed upon should be adhered to by all stakeholders. Some people think that easing of the MCO is tantamount to total eradication of SOP, thereby making them go back to their pre-MCO way of life.

The easing of the MCO is not a yardstick to be mask-free or going into crowded places without any precautionary measures and SOPs stipulated by the authorities concerned. It's a measure to avoid heavy economic losses.

