



LEADER LETTERS COLUMNISTS

enago Author First, Quality First 10% OFF NOW One Step to Journal Acceptance CLICK HERE

## Covid-19: Protecting lives and livelihoods

May 6, 2020 @ 1:37pm



While adhering strictly to the SOPs may not absolutely prevent the risk of infections, it is arguably one of the only policies government has. – Bernama

LETTERS: After more than one month of Movement Control Order (MCO), Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced a partial lifting to Conditional MCO (CMCO) to allow some economic sectors to operate.

Companies, however, must adhere to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) outlined by the Ministry of Health, leading to mixed reactions.

On one hand, business owners were happy with the decision allowing them to resume operations while another segment of society feels that the decision may cause another wave of infections.

While experts concluded that the virus cannot be completely eradicated despite a lockdown, some research suggests that lockdown should be in place until a vaccine is found. This might be the best way to safeguard the lives of the people but it is not a practical one.

The consequences would be so great if lockdown measures lasted longer and probably would lead Malaysia into depression, worse than a recession.

MCO has already caused Malaysia to lose up to RM63 billion and another one-month extension would mean another RM35 billion will be lost. Therefore, loosening certain measures is inevitable.

### MOST POPULAR

- LATEST MOST READ RECOMMENDED
- 17m [King expresses gratitude to Wisma Putra](#)
- 18m [Sabah to implement MCO's 'fifth phase' in stages](#)
- 21m [Fitch takes negative rating actions on six palm-oil producers in Malaysia and Indonesia](#)
- 25m [Observing Wesak Day at home](#)
- 40m [Don't backtrack on MACC Act: FMM](#)

### TRENDING



Motion of confidence on Tun Dr Mahathir submitted



Experts: CMCO must be extended

Close ↓

Despite that, we are in a much more favourable position now to restart the economy due to the implementation of MCO early on. The MCO has bought time for the Ministry of Health to increase its healthcare capability – ramping up tests and preparing more equipment and hospital beds to avoid the unforeseen circumstances of an overwhelmed healthcare system that had unfortunately happened in other countries.

The SOPs for businesses to follow in the new normal has also been developed to minimise the risk of infection. Having said that, a more cautious opening than what was suggested is deemed necessary. Perhaps, the government should go for a staggered economic re-opening.

Firms should be informed earlier about the SOPs so they will be better prepared before requesting workers to go back to work. Most importantly, federal government should engage the help of local authorities to ensure compliance of the SOPs.

This may include devising possible actions that can be taken by local authorities to enforce SOPs in companies and imposing a penalty if necessary.

While adhering strictly to the SOPs may not absolutely prevent the risk of infections, it is arguably one of the only policies government has. Indeed, it is never an easy decision to make – seeking a balance between protecting lives of the people and their livelihoods.

LEE PEI MAY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA



No Hari Raya visits under CMCO, even within same state



Gerak Malaysia: Interstate travels begin tomorrow



Covid-19 causing damaging blood clots from brain to toes

## RELATED ARTICLES



**COLUMNISTS** Mar 16, 2020 @ 8:30am  
**Covid-19: Time for drastic measures like a lockdown in Malaysia, ah?**



**LETTERS** Apr 25, 2020 @ 3:12pm  
**Brace for many new normals post-Covid-19**



**LETTERS** 4 hours ago  
**Covid-19: It's up to the rakyat now**



**COLUMNISTS** Apr 1, 2020 @ 10:23am  
**Covid-19: Why, Why tell me why lah?**

Close ↓

论文代写 assignment helper

DAR论文辅导

Assignment, thesis, research, SPSS, and tuition

drassignmentresearch.com

**OPEN**

Turn Website Traffic Into Sale

**OPEN**

# NEW STRAITS TIMES

GET MOBILE APP



- |                                      |                                   |                              |                            |                        |                            |                              |                           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>NEWS</b>                          | <b>BUSINESS</b>                   | <b>LIFE &amp; TIMES</b>      | <b>SPORTS</b>              | <b>WORLD</b>           | <b>OPINION</b>             | <b>GALLERY</b>               | <b>NSTTV</b>              |
| <a href="#">Crime &amp; Courts</a>   | <a href="#">Business Times</a>    | <a href="#">Sunday Vibes</a> | <a href="#">Football</a>   | <a href="#">World</a>  | <a href="#">Columnists</a> | <a href="#">Photos</a>       | <a href="#">EDUCATION</a> |
| <a href="#">Exclusive</a>            | <a href="#">Property</a>          | <a href="#">Bots</a>         | <a href="#">Badminton</a>  | <a href="#">Region</a> | <a href="#">Letters</a>    | <a href="#">Infographics</a> | <a href="#">VOUCHER</a>   |
| <a href="#">Govt / Public Policy</a> | <a href="#">Cars Bikes Trucks</a> | <a href="#">Heal</a>         | <a href="#">Tennis</a>     |                        | <a href="#">Leader</a>     |                              |                           |
| <a href="#">Nation</a>               |                                   | <a href="#">Flair</a>        | <a href="#">Cycling</a>    |                        |                            |                              |                           |
| <a href="#">Politics</a>             |                                   | <a href="#">Jom!</a>         | <a href="#">Golf</a>       |                        |                            |                              |                           |
|                                      |                                   | <a href="#">Groove</a>       | <a href="#">MMA</a>        |                        |                            |                              |                           |
|                                      |                                   |                              | <a href="#">MotorSport</a> |                        |                            |                              |                           |
|                                      |                                   |                              | <a href="#">Cricket</a>    |                        |                            |                              |                           |
|                                      |                                   |                              | <a href="#">Others</a>     |                        |                            |                              |                           |

2020 © New Straits Times, New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd. A part of Media Prima Group.  
[Subscribe](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Personal Data Protection Act](#) | [Contact Us](#)

**Close ↓**