

Rising above hard times



LETTERS

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Fake news and headlines from certain print media are not helping the government in their fight to curb Covid-19, because some quarters do not seem to care if we fall in this battle instead of complementing the all-out efforts and strategies of the government of the day and its hard work

They don't seem to be perturbed with the high infectivity rate and the deaths reported in the past few months if their unpatriotic and uncooperative actions, their political maneuvering and stunts are anything to go by.

Nothing seems to stop them, and the vicious cycle of restlessness and anxiety caused by these quarters continue to prevail. They don't seem to have an inch of guilt when it comes to keeping Malaysia as a country, safeguarding lives and livelihoods amidst difficult, trying times.

I was going through some of the local newspapers today when my eyes caught a headline "Makin Kalut" in a Bahasa Malaysia newspaper clearly depicting the present pandemic situation in the country - in particular in the state of Selangor. "Makin kalut" means "more chaotic, more disorganized or in disarray" in English.

Such a headline will trigger panic, restlessness and anxiety among the public who are already badly hit by the pandemic. Do they think that by carrying such negativity, they will be helping to ease the situation in the country? Won't such a headline make people - Selangor residents in particular - more restless and angrier with the authorities than before? Why can't we be fair and just in our assessment? Is such disarray hap

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Why are we getting very negative and irresponsible when we should be working closely together, hand-in-hand to fight this battle against the pandemic? Why can't we be grateful to the government for all the aid and assistance that has been given out?

Why can't we be appreciative of the over RM530bil in stimulus packages and other forms of aid that the government has been handing out, instead of joining the chorus of those out there jockeying for power? Why the impatience?

We are facing not just this health crisis but political and economic crises, too. At least, be fair and reasonable in our assessment of all things in this respect - about what the federal government has so far done to help the people.

The public expects a media house to be responsible. Of course, they have every right to express their own opinions but it becomes their responsibility not to create more grievances or instability via misleading and unbalanced news reports that make people or readers easily agitated and frustrated.

At times like this where almost everybody is affected by the pandemic, they should be able to play their role well in all fairness and justice by helping the authorities concerned and the people through balanced, useful and accurate reporting.

For example, take the case of the "makin kalut" headline; containment measures had actually been implemented by the relevant authorities and ministries to resolve the problems, as said by Khairy Jamaluddin - the minister in charge. The Health Ministry is expecting a spike of Covid-19 cases over the next two weeks following massive screenings done daily.

Opposition-led states Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and part of Negeri Sembilan have been seeing surges in cases, with Selangor being on top of the daily chart since the past few months. Selangor, if you remember, formed its special Covid-19 task force since last year. I am just wondering what actually has gone wrong with these Pakatan Harapan-led states! I leave this for you to interpret.

The Perikatan Nasional government, being a caring and responsible government-of-the-day, continues to arm healthcare workers with an infusion of RM1 billion to battle the pandemic in the Klang Valley as it is deemed to be ground zero with the bulk of cases. Additionally, the Greater Klang Valley task force has been mandated to make quick, decisive decisions to mobilise resources.

Additionally the robust daily vaccination rate has surpassed 420,000 doses on Monday, which is good news. If this momentum remains, Malaysia said by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin - could achieve herd immunity before the end of this year. The smooth running of the nation

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Truly, the government knows that failure is simply not an option. The facts are clear - its battle, driven in part by new highly infectious and deadlier variants, has been consistently aggressive with the ramping up of the vaccination drive, the timely distribution of aid and assistance, the food aid programmes and other targeted, measures which are keys to recovery.

We are currently among the world's leading countries in terms of daily jabs administered to every 100 persons in the population, bypassing countries such as Britain, France and Germany. With all these government's efforts and measures, through resilience, patience and indomitable Malaysia cooperative spirit, we will all rise above these hard times, God-willing.

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Pasir Gudang, Johor.

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