

TRENDING



[Tuan Ibrahim: M'sia not invited to US summit as it is not a climate vulnerable country](#)



[4th wave looms, warns expert](#)



[Wonderkid' Arif stars as JDT beat 10-man Sabah](#)



Preservation of life must come first



By [Dzulkifli Abdul Razak](#) - November 30, 2020 @ 12:12am



A Health Ministry worker carrying out a swab test on a foreign worker on Saturday in Meru, Klang. Human lives must take precedence, and not compromised in the search for power and profits. -- NSTP/ASWADI ALIAS

MOST POPULAR

LATEST MOST READ

- 13m [#Showbiz: Makcik Petir dies](#)
- 19m [Vaccination date for Tokyo-bound](#)
- 23m [Lenggong surau told to move sandal replica to a more appropriate location](#)
- 24m [Affin Bank's prospects look bullish](#)
- 29m [Players will adapt, whatever the system](#)
- 31m [RM opens at 4.12 against USD](#)
- 35m [Tuan Ibrahim: M'sia not invited to US summit as it is not a climate vulnerable country](#)

FOR most human beings, life is sacred. And it must come first in ensuring that humanity remains respected, dignified and sanctified. All lives matter. Period.

There can be no other way as we closely witness, almost daily for the last few months, events unfolding in the world's most democratic nation. Ironically, then and even now, innocent lives are wantonly wasted on the

political pedestal in the rush to secure power.

A sheer means to an end. Add to that lies, half-truths and fake news in a world made more uncertain by the coronavirus pandemic. We also see how social media is misused and abused to lend support by promoting hatred and racism as well as sexism.

So much so that many global companies launched a worldwide boycott to force change but with little consequence. Therein involves leaders who are disconnected from the reality on the ground when defying lessons brought out so clearly by the pandemic.

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

- [CIDB: Construction site clusters due to workers moving between sites](#)
- [Frontliners should have been better recognised](#)
- [All Cabinet members must now undergo Covid-19 screening](#)
- ['Fitting in' approach to education should not be the way](#)

Overall, it is not only dehumanising but at once commercialises being human by putting the need for profits above the lives of fellow humans.

So, it is appalling to learn recently how businesses reap unbridled profits from the miseries of others as the pandemic heightened. The protection of life and well-being of workers are found wanting.

One such experience led to a closure of tens of the outlets involved, while reportedly thousands of workers are said to be severely affected at the facilities following a drastic rise in positive Covid-19 cases among them.

It is regrettable that greed seems to have blinded many despite the daily deaths reported at times in the thousands globally.

What with the onslaught of the so-called third waves, many more are affected. In the most advanced economy, hospitalisation is said to be at its peak. No amount of money and technology can give any assurances. It includes vaccines, a new variable that adds to the complexity of the situation.

If they are going to save the day, human lives must take precedence, and not be compromised in the search for power and profits. It is about the collective well-being of humanity. No one is to be left behind. Inclusive, equitable, just and sustainable is the reality of the future, post-pandemic.

This is what the pandemic is now telling so that we can be better prepared. Unfortunately, many have missed it, if not dismissed it blatantly due to selfish reasons or ignorance. Covid-19 has made the invisible, visible. Not in the tangible sense but intangibly — pointing to the values of cleanliness, openness, vigilance, integrity and discipline — spelt Covid.

Each of these is a vital value to break the spread of Covid-19, only if they

VACCINE



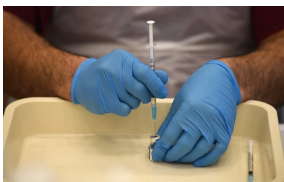
LETTERS 11 hours ago
[Creating a safe workplace](#)



COLUMNISTS Apr 5, 2021 @ 12:03am
[We must reflect on S. African move not to use AstraZeneca vaccine](#)



NATION Apr 3, 2021 @ 9:20am
[Call to step up virus genome sequencing](#)



WORLD Apr 1, 2021 @ 8:57pm
[Pfizer/BioNTech say vaccine effective against S.Africa variant](#)



WORLD Mar 31, 2021 @ 9:41pm
[BioNTech-Pfizer say Covid vaccine 100pct effective on 12-15 year olds](#)



WORLD Mar 30, 2021 @ 8:48pm
[Experts to reveal details on Covid origins as leaders urge pandemic treaty](#)

ACROSS NEW STRAITS TIMES



CRIME & COURTS Apr 6, 2021 @ 9:04pm
[Apandi grilled over decision to clear Najib of 1MDB wrongdoings](#)



CRIME & COURTS Apr 6, 2021 @ 8:43pm
[Najib served with bankruptcy notice over failure to pay income tax arrears](#)



NATION Apr 6, 2021 @ 8:15pm
[Saravanan: Surviving on RM1,500 salary in city requires 'a miracle'](#)



CRIME & COURTS Apr 6, 2021 @ 3:26pm
[Cash, luxury yacht, helicopters seized from head of 'project tender cartel'](#)



NATION Apr 6, 2021 @ 2:17pm
[Health Ministry warns against buying, using these two cosmetic products](#)

Each of these is a vital value to break the spread of Covid-19, only if they are infused organically into politics and economics so that the invisible is also made more visible in both words and practices. This is the only way out of the pandemic, as a preparation for the post-pandemic era with a new set of norms.

Not limited to just three Cs and Ws, namely, avoiding crowds, close contact and confined spaces or the wearing of masks, observing safe physical distance, and washing your hands. We also need to add three Rs – be fully responsible in upholding that life is truly revered and respected in whatever we do.

The writer, a 'New Straits Times' columnist for more than 20 years, is International Islamic University Malaysia rector

RELATED ARTICLES

NATION Nov 18, 2020 @ 5:44pm
Covid-19: Govt mulling mandatory swab tests for foreign construction workers every fortnight

NATION Feb 1, 2021 @ 6:17pm
'Stop blaming foreign workers for escalating Covid-19 cases'

NATION Feb 2, 2021 @ 5:16pm
Less than half of foreign workers in Penang screened for Covid-19

NATION Nov 27, 2020 @ 9:48pm
Travellers from Sabah to Kelantan must undergo quarantine, swab tests

Recommended by |



Chinese aircraft carrier and 5 Michelin. Motion For Life.
ships pass Okinawa on way to Pacific
Sponsored | Nikkei Asia



Sponsored | Michelin Malay...



John F. Kennedy's Winter White House in Palm Beach, Florida, Sells for \$70 Million
Sponsored | Mansion Global



Dr Amalina and Alexander Charles tie the knot at London mosque | New Strai...
New Straits Times



I warned Bersatu leaders about Umno but they ignored her me, says Dr M | New Straits...
New Straits Times



Jho Low's mom argues that his bungalow has nothing to do with 1MDB | New Straits...
New Straits Times



GET MOBILE APP



NEWS

- [Crime & Courts](#)
- [Exclusive](#)
- [Govt / Public Policy](#)
- [Nation](#)
- [Politics](#)

BUSINESS

- [Business Times](#)
- [Property](#)
- [Cars Bikes Trucks](#)

LIFE & TIMES

- [Sunday Vibes](#)
- [Bots](#)
- [Heal](#)
- [Flair](#)
- [Jom!](#)
- [Groove](#)

SPORTS

- [Football](#)
- [Badminton](#)
- [Tennis](#)
- [Cycling](#)
- [Golf](#)
- [MMA](#)
- [MotorSport](#)
- [Cricket](#)
- [Others](#)

WORLD

- [World](#)
- [Region](#)

OPINION

- [Columnists](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Leader](#)

GALLERY

- [Photos](#)
- [Infographics](#)

- NSTTV**
- EDUCATION**
- VOUCHER**