



MEDIA STATEMENT

IRRESPONSIBLE SHARING OF UNVERIFIED INFORMATION ON THE *NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)*

The Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia (CMCF) wishes to provide insights on the need for self-regulation by content creators including members of the public that shares various unverified information regarding the spread of the ***Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)*** in Malaysia.

In a time where sharing capabilities are just at one's fingertips, we would like to remind all those concerned that information sharing carries an important responsibility to be honest, truthful and unambiguous. It is understandable that the general population seeks out information as an attempt to be ahead and prepare for any calamitous events. This does not allow for dissemination for unverified or even fake information that could lead to public detriment and chaos.

Following the joint statement issued by the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission dated 27th January 2020, the CMCF reiterates the seriousness of any dissemination of unverified, untruthful and fake information to the public at large that may cause fear, panic and worry leading to public unrest especially on social media and online messaging platforms.

Content creators and members of the public are reminded to be mindful that the authorities may take action on any wrongdoings subject to the Penal Code and the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 which carries severe legal action.

CMCF calls upon those within the content industry, online users and social media operators to monitor any information created or aggregated by applying self-regulatory principles to ensure that information from unverified sources, especially from third parties, is not spread irresponsibly.

Members of the public are encouraged to refer to the official portals of the Ministry of Health Malaysia (www.moh.gov.my) or the World Health Organisation (www.who.int) for verified and updated news and information regarding the ***Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)*** epidemic.

Additionally, the CMCF proposes the use of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Content Code as a self-regulatory guidance on ethical sharing of information over the various online platforms. It is available from our website at (www.cmcf.my) at no cost.

The public is further urged to always adopt high values of politeness and to be conscientious in the use of social media for its own protection.

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