

July 26, 1999

To: All News Editors

**PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The National Union of Journalists Malaysia views with concern the statement by PAS President Datuk Fadzil Noor that the party would close down all media organisations which purportedly supported Barisan Nasional once it forms the Government.

NUJ feels that such statement is uncalled for as it would put the mainstream media journalists under unnecessary pressure and undermining their credibility in view of the coming general election.

As a trade union representing professional journalists in Malaysia, we feel that such statement had affected the image and the independence of local journalists.

If the party feels that it had been libeled by any organisations or individuals, there are adequate libel laws to protect the innocent. We also feel that Malaysians are now mature enough to distinguish truth from falsehood and media organisations which continue to distort facts will be eventually rejected by the people.

The discretion by the media to highlight certain issues depends on the editorial policies which varies from organisation to organisation. Thus, in our democratic society which allows free speech and expression, the views adopted by a media organisation may not be necessarily shared by all segments of society.

We remind our members to continue reporting fairly and truthfully in accordance to the Journalists' Code of Professional Conduct.

We would like to emphasise to our members that a journalist's role is to disseminate facts and information without fear or favour in achieving national unity and development.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Council,

NORILA MOHD. DAUD  
President