

Dec 1, 2006

TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists views with great concern the proposed merger involving The New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd (NSTP) and Utusan Melayu (M) Bhd.

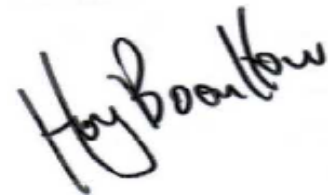
We would also like to express our dismay in which the management of both companies have not held briefings to inform their workers and the union on developments that would affect their livelihood and future.

All corporate exercises should be done in a transparent manner with emphasis on preserving the rights and benefits of workers.

The current consolidation of media companies under few hands is a worrisome trend in Malaysia, as it would pose a threat to press freedom and objectivity.

NUJ hopes that before any decision is made pertaining to any form of change in ownership, company exercises, or in change of any policies, which would affect the workers, the union should be consulted and decision should be made on consensus.

On behalf of the Executive Council



HONG BOON HOW
General Secretary