

April 4, 2013

To all editors.

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists Peninsular Malaysia (NUJM) calls all members and media practitioners to continue reporting fairly and truthfully in accordance to the Journalists' Code of Professional Conduct while carrying their duty in coming General Election 13.

We reiterates our call over resolutions passed during the March 3, 2012 Extraordinary Delegates Conference in light of the announcement made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yesterday on the dissolution of Parliament, paving the way for the GE-13.

The two resolutions that passed :

1. To call upon our members to subscribe to fair reporting which is also in line with NUJ's Code of Ethics, and endeavour to ensure that balanced reports are published."
2. To call upon political parties/ coalition of parties which obtain a mandate to form the Federal Government to establish a Parliamentary Select Committee to review all existing legislation with the aim of giving effect to freedom of speech, expression and assembly as enshrined in the Federal Constitution.

As a professional journalists, we are expected to lead the public and provide information to our readers and public viewers.

NUJ has the responsibility to ensure the media engages in fair reporting so that voters have access to balanced views for them to make their choice .

Therefore, a free and fair election is an important component of a functional parliamentary democracy.

Electorates must be given the free will, ready access to information, news and commentaries for them to elect their wakil rakyat, their Federal Government and State Governments who will make decisions on their behalf over the next five years.

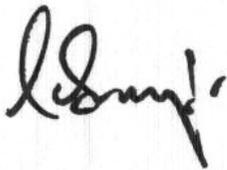
The NUJ has submitted to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Electoral Reforms proposal on Jan, 2012 , with our focus on the Election Commission's handling of the media and conduct of ceramah during the general election/ by-elections.

We have also highlighted to the government that as members of the communication profession, journalists are to provide reliable information for everyone to take part in the democratic decision making process.

As such, it is the duty of journalists to supply to all individuals with diverse information. The NUJ, representing 1,500 working journalists hopes the parties will endeavour to assist the Press, widely regarded as the Fourth Estate in a democratic system, to carry out its duties for the well being of the public and the nation.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chin Sung Chew', written in a cursive style.

CHIN SUNG CHEW
President