

Dec 5, 2006

TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE National Union of Journalists is holding the Utusan Melayu (M) Bhd management to its promise that its proposed merger with The New Straits Times Press group would not result in retrenchment or the reduction of benefits under the existing NUJ-UM collective agreement.

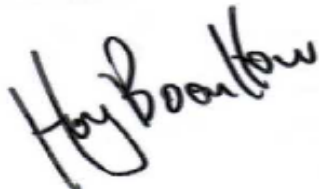
That assurance for maintaining status quo for NUJ members was given by Utusan group executive chairman Tan Sri Hashim Makaruddin during a briefing yesterday which was attended by NUJ president Norila Mohd Daud and NUJ-Utusan branch committee members.

The proposed merger between Utusan Melayu and the NSTP group is still under negotiation.

At the briefing, the NUJ also welcomed the assurance by Utusan management that the editorial independence of all publications under the Utusan group would not be affected under the proposed merger.

Meanwhile, the union had also urged the Utusan management to fully study the viability of merger as not to affect the profitability of the Utusan group and the welfare of workers in the long term.

On behalf of the Executive Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hong Boon How', written in a cursive style.

HONG BOON HOW
General Secretary