



KESATUAN KEBANGSAAN WARTAWAN SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA
NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

馬來西亞半島新聞從業員職工會

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To all editors.

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUJ calls all journalists, including executives, to join the union for a common cause.

The NUJ will turn 50 this August. Tomorrow, (Saturday, March 3) we will be holding an unprecedented extraordinary delegates conference to debate and approve two resolutions.

1. To call upon our members to subscribe to fair reporting and to see that they hand in balanced reports to their respective media organisations during the general election.
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. There are 11 objectives in the union rules and the noticeable ones are to defend Press Freedom, maintain high ethical standards in journalism and to represent members in collective bargaining.

For most part of the union's existence over the last 50 years, the NUJ has been run by bargainable employees, widely known as "foot soldiers" among the journalistic fraternity.

Our membership has been stagnant mainly because the moment our members in the print media are promoted to executive positions, they are asked by their employers to resign from the union.

A clause in the terms and condition of the offer letter (to make them executives) states that they have to cease being union members.

We have now clarified this matter with the Registrar of Trades Union and our lawyers who are familiar with constitutional and industrial laws. Such a clause is illegal as it violates the right of journalists to remain as members or join as voting or associate members.

In fact, our union rules allow "working and professional journalists" (which includes photographers and creative artists engaged in the print, broadcast and on-line media in the private and public sectors) to be members.



The NUJ is not only a vehicle to fight for monetary and non-monetary benefits but to defend and promote our profession and integrity in the eyes of the public.

As members of the Press, we are expected to lead the public and provide information to our readers, viewers and listeners.

Over the last four years, much has been said by the public about the state of traditional media (print and broadcast) and the alternative media due to the emergence of a new political landscape.

The criticism is that the traditional media have not lived up to the changing and challenging expectation of their clients, the paying public.

The public perception is that the traditional media have slowly distanced themselves from the principles of journalism.

In fact, some claim that the traditional media have surrendered the undisputed title of "mainstream media". This, they claim, is because many editors have abandoned their responsibility to the profession.

I call upon all members of the fraternity to join us to reclaim our position for a common cause and help realise the objectives spelt out in the NUJ constitution.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Anbalagan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

V. ANBALAGAN

General Secretary NUJ Malaysia.
012-3881327