

Police: We'll give the press full cooperation

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KUALA LUMPUR (April 15, 2013): The police yesterday pledged to provide their full cooperation to journalists and photographers covering the 13th general election (GE13).

Following a two-hour meeting between the central working committee of the National Union of Journalist (NUJ) and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar at Bukit Aman, NUJ secretary Schave Jerome De Rozario said the session further enhanced ties between the media and police, especially when there was a need for both parties to work together during the GE13.

"The IGP has assured that our safety would be ensured when we go on duty.

"He also advised all reporters and photographers to identify or make themselves known as media personnel to police officers on duty at campaign sites and polling stations. This is to ensure the authorities are aware we are there to perform our duties," he told reporters after the meeting.

He said journalists and photographers are neutral parties who should stay unbiased in their duties and not be influenced by political divisions.

De Rozario said police also agreed that they had no right to confiscate photographers' cameras or order their photos be deleted.

"We will not be there to be super heroes but to do our jobs. The police and media are friends, so let us cooperate. Do not get involved in political fights," he said.

(updated) NUJ committee members present at the meeting were NUJ president Chin Sung Chew and vice-presidents Mohd Taufek Razak and Noor Azmi Othman, General Secretary Schave, Deputy General Secretary Mohd Hidhir, General Treasurer Baharudin Hj Yaacob and Star Branch Secretary Shaun Ho.