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TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Utusan Melayu NUJ bargainable employees get 36-month windfall.

The protracted 2008-2011 NUJ-Utusan Melayu (Malaysia) Berhad collective agreement dispute which was to be decided by the Industrial Court came to an amicable end.

This follows an out of court settlement reached between both parties. Industrial Court chairman A. Iruthiaraja this morning recorded a consent award.

He thanked both parties for being forward looking and for adopting good industrial practice.

NUJ had submitted its proposal on behalf of 280 employees but negotiation came to a deadlock over a number of monetary and non monetary issues.

The matter was then referred to the court to be arbitrated about a year ago.

However, UM management last August said it was prepared to accept CA proposals by NUJ, thus averting the court from deciding on disputed terms and conditions.

The company has agreed to a nine (9) per cent salary hike and monthly RM630 transport allowance for those with cars and RM580 without cars.

All other articles in the CA remain unchanged. The 2008-2011 CA expired on July 31 this year and as such employees will be getting backdated salary and other perks for 36 months.

Based on their grades, employees are expected to get between RM5,000 and RM15,000 in arrears.

The NUJ would like to thank the management for being gracious to end the dispute from going to court and adopting the spirit of industrial harmony.

We also would like thank the company to help seal the 2011-2014 CA by the year end following an MOU between the management and NUJ.

The NUJ accepts another nine (9) per cent salary hike, raise in transport and food allowance.

V. Anbalagan **General Secretary**

