

May 23, 2001

To: All News Editors

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) strongly demands that any groups seeking to take over Nanyang Press Holdings Bhd ensure their utmost efforts in promoting the media group's editorial integrity and ensuring long-term benefits for workers.

Whoever buys over the Nanyang media group which operates the Nanyang Siang Pau and the China Press Chinese language dailies must ensure that the newspapers are run professionally without editorial interference.

The interference of editorial policies by media owners will severely jeopardise the credibility and the ability of newspapers to report independently, truthfully and fairly.

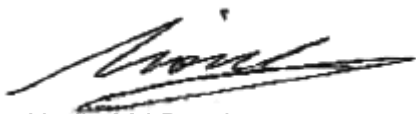
It has been widely talked that the Star Publications (Malaysia) Bhd is eyeing to acquire the Nanyang media group.

NUJ regrets that Nanyang Siang Pau used to be the leading Chinese language daily but its circulation and readership had dropped drastically under the current management.

Not only has the management performed poorly to enhance Nanyang Siang Pau's status as a leading Chinese daily, the newspaper had seen the sad episodes of Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS), inappropriate staff displacement and reduction of benefits for workers in the past 10 years.

We also note that management team of the Nanyang media group had not been union-friendly and had occasionally violated the NUJ-NYSP Collective Agreement.

As such, we strongly urged the new owners of the media to take immediate steps to improve its relationship with the union in the interest of industrial harmony and press freedom.



Norila Md Daud
President