

November 8, 2005

TO: All News Editors

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE National Union of Journalists views that the formation of the Malaysian Media Council can only be successful if the body is independent, self-regulated and made up of an equal composition of public and media representatives

The union has conducted a survey among its members from March to October 2003 found that the members are keen for a body to regulate the professional conduct of the media.

The survey findings also indicated that the formation of the body should be preceded by the amendment/repeal of several restrictive laws (i.e. Printing Presses and Publications Act, Internal Security Act, Sedition Act and Official Secrets Act) and the introduction of an Access to Information Act.

NUJ has sent a copy of the survey report to the Prime Minister's Department on May 20, 2004 and is still waiting for a favourable reply.

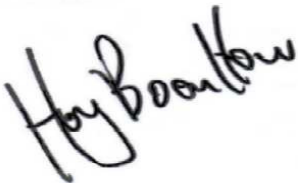
The original draft of the Malaysian Media Council was not accepted by NUJ as its members feared that journalists are not well represented and that the council might impose new restrictions on the local media.

Furthermore, NUJ was not consulted on the Malaysian Media Council proposal at the drafting stage.

The union is willing to co-operate with Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin to rework the proposed Malaysian Media Council or any body that can enhance the professionalism and the freedom of the local media.

This statement is a follow-up of the Minister's press statement on Sunday November 6, 2005 regarding NUJ's concern on the formation of the Media council.

On Behalf of the Executive Council,



HONG BOON HOW
General Secretary