

**March 26, 2009**

**TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS**

**PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The National Union of Journalists Malaysia (NUJ) expresses concern over the government's move to suspend two party newspapers Harakah and Suara Keadilan over alleged distorting of facts.

The home ministry's decision to suspend Harakah and Suara Keadilan for three months is untimely as it occurred close to the upcoming three by-elections.

As such this move would be misconstrued as the government's attempts to silence dissenting views.

NUJM feels that the ministry should give a concrete explanation for the suspension instead of denying their rights of expression as enshrined under the federal constitution.

At the same time, the two newspapers should also make an attempt to get the views of the parties or individuals who are the subject of discussion.

In other development, NUJ would also like to urge the Penang government not to hastily bar the New Straits Times and Utusan Malaysia reporters from covering news conferences.

The Penang government is elected by the people and as such the press should be allowed to gather and disseminate information in the public interest.

On behalf of the Executive Council,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norila Daud', with a horizontal line underneath.

NORILA DAUD  
President