

Friday, July 24, 2015

TO ALL NEWS EDITORS,

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUJ Malaysia is appalled by the decision of the Home Ministry to suspend the publishing permit of The Edge Weekly and The Edge Financial Daily for three months. NUJ has always championed media freedom, and this draconian action only serves to restrict civil discourse.

The Home Ministry, in both its recent show cause letter and today's notice of suspension, had not identified specifically the offending articles which were deemed to have been harmful to national security. NUJ is of the opinion that the Home Ministry must spell out clearly how The Edge Weekly and The Edge Financial Daily are deemed a threat to national security.

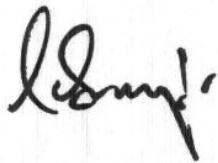
We are of the view that both publications had published articles related to 1MDB with public interest in mind. As 1MDB is a GLC, the rakyat has a right to know the on-goings within 1MDB.

Both The Edge Weekly and The Edge Financial Daily had also published rebuttals from both Government spokespersons and 1MDB. As such, the publications have offered a platform for civil debate and discourse.

The media has a public duty to inform, and should not be discouraged from playing an active role in highlighting issues of public and national interest. The suspension of both publications can be construed and perceived as a clampdown on media freedom. Malaysia has always tried to put in place good governance and transparency, and this action only serves to reverse the good work done in the past. The country's image to the international community will also be affected by this action.

NUJ calls for this suspension to be lifted immediately. The media is only playing its role as the fourth estate, and any disagreements over the 1MDB reports should be debated in a civil manner.

On behalf of NUJ Malaysia



Chin Sung Chew
President