



KESATUAN KEBANGSAAN WARTAWAN SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA
NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

馬來西亞半島新聞從業員職工會

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TO ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists Peninsular Malaysia (NUJM) urges the government to accord more attention to the bitter challenges faced by Malaysian media personnel who are currently facing the challenge of working under the present COVID-19 pandemic.

In truth, a large number of former media employees were faced with an uncertain and unfortunate fate when they were laid off since 2019.

NUJM President, Farah Marshita Abdul Patah said it is estimated that more than 3,000 employees in the media industry have been laid off in stages since 2019 due to the slowdown in the industry and with the on-going effects of COVID-19.

"As for former employees who had received compensations from their employers, most of them have ventured into various fields of business to survive, but the prolonged pandemics since 2019 have had a big impact on their newly ventured businesses in the market," she said.

In fact, the media industry is seen to display a gloomy look over the next few years and this trend not only erases the desire of former media personnel to return to serve in this industry, but also kills the spirit of the media in those that are still working in the industry.

In covering the COVID-19 news, media personnel also seem to be sidelined, both in terms of welfare as well as their safety.

In addition, there has been no special provision given for the purchase of safety equipment, health check-ups or medical allowances to media personnel during their daily coverage, especially in risky places.

NUJM hopes that the government can formulate a special program that can help alleviate the burden faced by media personnel and former employees of this industry immediately following its recent announcement of the State of Emergency until August this year which is seen to continue putting pressure on the recovery of this industry.

NUJM proposes creating programs with the concept of 'up-skilling' and 'reskilling', digital entrepreneur development, business & financial management training and various other programs that can add value to them to continue to compete in the job market and business ventures.

Apart from that, NUJM also proposes the establishment of a disaster fund to assist media personnel who had accidents while on duty as well as to enable emergency assistance to be provided immediately.

"During this current challenging situation, assistance and support from the government is greatly desired and appreciated. NUJM welcomes the government to assist not only NUJM members but the media industry as a whole.

In this regard, NUJM is ready to hold discussions with the ministry to realize the hope to ensure the welfare of media personnel is maintained.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Farah Marshita', written in a cursive style.

FARAH MARSHITA ABDUL PATAH
President