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TO ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Union of Journalists (NUJ) expressed its concern and was unhappy with the actions of some leaders and politicians bullying reporters who were carrying out their duties”.

It was reported that two PAS leaders, one a minister and the other a deputy minister, became confrontational when FMT reporter Minderjeet Kaur asked questions related to an action of the PAS-led Kedah government which effectively bans gaming outlets in that state.

The NUJ said it must be remembered that the job of a reporter, other than asking questions to channel information to the public, is to play a check and balance role in the administration of the country, state or politics and any reporter’s questions must be received with an open mind.

The NUJ expresses its view that the persons concerned, fails to answer the question that is put forth by the reporter, it means that the step taken or its implementation was not well thought out.

NUJ also said not to blame the person asking the questions if the person(s) do not have an answer for them and not to divert from answering the questions by attacking the shortcomings of others.

It is tantamount to using one’s power to bully other people, especially women.

In a joint statement with NUJ, Gerakan Media Merdeka (Geramm) has expressed its disappointment over the reactions of the two PAS leaders to Minderjeet’s questions.

Geramm said the actions of both these leaders of an Islamic party, especially as they were part of the government, was unacceptable.

Geramm expressed every reporter had a responsibility and the right to ask about any issue and that the other party also had a right to not make any comment and there is no excuse to attack the reporter personally just because they are not ready to answer.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Committee

FARAH MARSHITA ABDUL PATAH
President

