



February 20, 2023

TO ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUJ- OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH (OSH) FORUM "Journalists Mental Health...When's the Deadline?"

Venue: **Ballroom 2, HOTEL MAYA Jalan Ampang, KUALA LUMPUR**

Date: **21 February 2021** (Tuesday) Time: **9:30AM to 12:30PM**

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Union of Journalists Malaysia (NUJM, or the Union) will be organising the Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) Forum in its effort to strengthen its role in up-keeping the welfare of its members.

Themed "Journalists Mental Health...When's the Deadline?", the first-ever forum of its kind organised by the Union, in collaboration with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and generously supported by the European Union (EU), will be held on 21 February 2023 at Hotel Maya Kuala Lumpur.

The Forum will be officiated by Delegation of the EU to Malaysia Deputy Head of Mission Timo Goosman.

The forum will also witness the establishment of new NUJ Chapel NUJ-Malaysiakini, marking a new era for NUJ's expansion and continuing legacy to safeguard journalists' welfare in the country.

The onboarding of members from Malaysiakini also marked NUJM's achievement in receiving full membership from reporters coming from digital news platforms -- the first time since the Union's establishment in 1962.

For the past couple of years, NUJM has been facing a lot of challenges, especially in the area of depleting numbers of its members. The closure of Utusan Malaysia and the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) offered to more than 500 members, had a big impact on NUJM until it lost more than 1,000 members.

Without fail, the Union continues to play an important role in the survival of journalists.

NUJM insists that freedom of association and collective bargaining is a fundamental human right for decent work and the establishment of good industrial relations. These rights allow for workers to form associations such as unions of their own choosing and to collectively discuss and negotiate on work-related terms, wages and working conditions.

Trade or labour unions provide platforms for workers to effectively engage in dialogue with their employers and the government to address social issues related to labour contracts, gender, migration and occupational health and safety.

Even when such unions are available, they are usually not sufficiently equipped to represent all types of workers, let alone negotiate with the plantation owners. In some cases, company-backed unions even undermine workers' freedom of association. So we aim to change that.

The forum is also held in conjunction with World Safety Day which falls in April 2023.

The esteemed panellists for the OSH session will be the Ministry of Human Resource Safety & Health (DOSH) Occupational Health Division Department of Occupational Dr. Ahmad Fitri Abdullah Hair, Mental Illness Awareness & Support Association (MIASA) founder and president Anita Abu Bakar and Technical Expert, Education and Training Department (ETD), NIOSH Ruzita Shariff.

They will speak on their experiences and recommended guidelines pertaining to their engagement and events in dealings with work pressure and working conditions, particularly in this case journalists and media as a whole as great pressure is imposed on journalists to meet deadlines and how to cope with it.

Please see programme itinerary attached.

On Behalf of the Executive Committee

FARAH MARSHITA ABD PATAH
President NUJM

