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TO ALL NEWS EDITORS

**PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PETALING JAYA: There should be more commitment to protect the welfare of media practitioners from the government following the National Journalist Day celebration last weekend.

National Union of Journalists Malaysia (NUJM) president Farah Marshita Abdul Patah said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim should be announcing more than the RM1 million initial allocation for Tabung Hawana for veterans and former media representatives.

Farah said calls by Anwar for the media to be vocal should also be given assurance that no action would be taken against those who criticise the government.

“The allocation by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim solidifies the government’s effort to recognise media practitioners’ hard work and services to the country.

“We expected more from a government that champions press freedom, and are waiting for the media council that would uphold the welfare of all media practitioners.

“We acknowledge the prime minister’s call for journalists to remain vocal against the government but we also need assurance there will be no penalty set against us when doing so,” she said in a statement on Sunday (May 28).

It was earlier reported that Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil had assured that his ministry is currently working towards the formation of the media council.

Farah Marshita added that Anwar could have provided similar assurance in establishing the media council as it could have strengthened efforts to protect the welfare of both current and former media practitioners.

“There are several issues the media regardless of platform are facing such as copyright issues; part-time or stringers facing financial situations as well union busting by companies which are against the rights of the employees,” she said.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Committee,

**TEH ATHIRA MOHD YUSOF**  
General Secretary, NUJ

