



5 MARCH, 2024

TO ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists Peninsular Malaysia is concerned over the different validity term of period granted to online media journalists.

NUJM hoped that the Communications Ministry can provide an explanation for the different period of expiry for online portals' media practitioners.

We understand that the Information Department is in the process of reviewing the standard operating procedures (SOP) for issuing media cards, including the period of validity.

NUJM calls on the ministry will reconsider reverting to the standard two-year period of validity when issuing media cards for all media practitioners without prejudice.

We hope there will be more transparency from the ministry on its plans for the media tag after review has been conducted the review.

Such an action by the ministry would only hinder journalists from carrying out their duties at government facilities that require them to present the media tags upon entry.

In its promise to expand the media industry to be more inclusive, this action by the ministry is seen as a step back.

We are making this call to ensure the welfare of the journalists are protected when they are carrying out their duties as the fourth estate.

We would also like to bring to the government's attention that it has promised to review and repeal the Printing Presses and Publications Act (PPPA) and to form the media council, which we hope will be done soon.

It seemed like, the more we ask for press freedom, the more they try to control and take it back in other ways.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Committee,

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General Secretary, NUJ

