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Journalists-Ethics

KHALID REMINDS JOURNALISTS TO UPHOLD CODE OF ETHICS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 29 (Bernama) -- Journalists in the country must be rational and should strongly uphold the journalism code of ethics when discharging their responsibilities.

Deputy Information Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus said as a developing country, the role of journalists in Malaysia was important in moulding the mind of the people and they should not do anything that would be detrimental to the development of the people and country.

He said this to reporters after officiating the 2001 National Convention of the National Association of Malaysian Life Insurance Agents (NAMLIA), here today.

"Journalists and the press in this country are not only given the freedom to report but also to criticise the policies of the government and leaders," he said.

"The government under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad adopts an open policy, that is, it can be criticised," Khalid said.

He said if the journalists had any problem with their employers, they should discuss the matter in a healthy manner instead of taking negative measures such as a confrontation.

He also advised journalists of the vernacular newspapers, Nanyang Siang Pau and China Press, to discuss with their employers instead of taking confrontational measures if they were still dissatisfied with the takeover of the two newspapers by Huaren Holdings Berhad, the MCA investment arm.

Huaren Holdings Berhad recently took over the two chinese newspapers which had caused dissatisfaction among the journalists of the two vernacular papers.

Meanwhile, Khalid said Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) would adopt a new approach aimed at improving the quality of programmes aired by the station.

The government would encourage RTM film producers to specialise in one particular field, that is, either in producing documentaries, dramas, sitcoms or children's programmes instead of all programmes, he said.

The new approach would give strong emphasis on the quality of the programmes aired to achieve the main objective, that is, national integration, he said.

Khalid said the government was also trying to encourage foreign film producers such as those from India and China to shoot their films in Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

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