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Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	2/7/2011

Better protection for press photographers

KUALA LUMPUR: Press photographers can now raise issues and complaints at work with the Malaysian Press Photographers Association (MPPA).

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the association gave photographers an avenue to voice their concerns.

"I'm happy that photographers now have their own association. It is also important to stay united and help each other," he said at the MPPA's launch yesterday.

Dr Mahathir, who is MPPA patron, said photographers played an important role in society because they were able to capture historic moments.

"A reporter may need to write

1,000 words to tell a story but a photographer does that with only a click of his camera. A picture speaks a thousand words."

MPPA president Mat Salim Shaari said the association would handle complaints and cases of photographers being abused.

At the launch, the association received RM20,000 as contribution from the government, RM20,000 from Celcom, RM15,000 from Syarikat Jamu Mak Dara and RM10,000 from the New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd.

Present was Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Ahmad Maslan, who is the MPPA adviser.