Ismail Sabri viewing a display at Hawana yesterday. He was accompanied during the visit by Bernama Chairman Senator Datuk Ras Adiba Radzi and Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Sulaiman Md Ali. - ***BERNAMAPIX***

Call for body to be 'voice of media'

MALACCA: A special body to protect and be the voice of media employees in the country needs to be established, said the Malaysian-Indonesian Journalists' Association (Iswami) president Datuk Mokhtar Hussain.

He said the matter has been the talk of media staff in the country for a long time, but it has yet to become a reality.

"There are many (media-related) associations in Malaysia but none functioned as 'umbrellas; It is time to create a body that can be a voice," he said in his welcoming speech at the National Media Forum, held in conjunction with National Journalists Day (Hawan) in Banda Hilir yesterday.

The Hawana celebrations, themed "Suara Jelata, Aspirasi Negara" (People's Voice, National Aspiration), was officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Mokhtar expressed hope that Hawana could facilitate the establishment of a special body with the involvement of young as well as senior journalists to advise and admonish members.

On the National Media Forum, Mokhtar said it could serve as a platform for news editors to think about the future of the journalism profession in Malaysia. - Bernama