

Media Personnel Covering Aid Missions Abroad Must Be Adequately Protected - Rais
Bernama
September 3, 2011

SEPANG, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Organisers of humanitarian aid missions abroad must ensure media personnel covering such missions are provided adequate protection including in terms of security, laws and insurance, said Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

He said the interests of the participants, especially media personnel must be considered to the last detail.

This was to ensure they were not caught unprepared, like what happened in Somalia, he told reporters at the KL International Airport here Saturday.

He said this in commenting on the death of Bernama TV cameraman Noramfaizul Mohd Nor, 39, who died after being hit by a stray bullet while covering the humanitarian aid mission mounted by the Putera 1Malaysia Club for victims of the famine in war-torn Somalia, in Mogadishu Friday.

Rais, who also extended his condolences to Noramfaizul's family, said media personnel who wanted to participate in such missions must make it a point to ask the organisers whether they were sufficiently protected in terms of insurance, personal security and laws.

He added that his ministry would do a study to come up with operating procedures for media personnel carrying out duties abroad, even if on a volunteer basis, so as to ensure that they are well protected including from the the insurance aspects.

Touching on Noramfaizul, Rais said as a media man who was professional, dedicated and brave, his sacrifice was invaluable and should be appreciated.

He said his ministry was looking into the type of assistance to be rendered to Noramfaizul's family to assure the future of his two children who were still very small.

Rais said he would be accompanying Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak at the Royal Malaysia Air Force in Subang to receive the body of Noramfaizul.

The RMAF's C-130 aircraft ferrying the coffin and other members of the aid mission is expected to arrive at the air base at 9am Sunday.

---BERNAMA

Copyright © 2011 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=611403>