

Parliament: Government Helps Media To Train Staff Assigned To Conflict Zones
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- The government is prepared to help media organisations train their journalists and photographers assigned to high-risk critical or conflict zones.

Information, Communication and Culture Deputy Minister Datuk Maglin Dennis D'Cruz said in this regard, media practitioners would be provided military-style training on tactics and techniques for survival.

"On the other hand, media organisations must be prepared to provide security outfit such as bullet-proof attire, protective helmet, safety vest, gas mask and camp paraphernalia for their reporters and photographers," he said in the Dewan Rakyat here Tuesday in reply to Datuk Mohd Jidin Shafee (BN-Setiu) who had asked on the government's security measures for media practitioners working in conflict or war zones.

"Apart from that, media organisations must have their own standard operating procedure (SOP); the government encourages them to do such preparations," he said.

Replying to an additional question by Mohd Jidin on government protection and assistance for media practitioners covering high-risk areas, he said various initiatives and insurance policies were in place for them in case of adverse incidents within and outside the country.

Maglin said the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) would be producing a handbook containing comprehensive security guidelines for journalists, which the ministry would appraise, to ensure it was applicable in the current situation.

Meanwhile, replying to an additional question by Tian Chua (PKR-Batu) on the setting up of the Media Consultative Council, he said the government was still studying the council structure.

"The ministry held a meeting to obtain views from various media quarters on the proposal last July 25," he said.

Maglin said the government was still inviting suggestions and cooperation from the media to realise the establishment of the body, as during the meeting, many of the media representatives were not in favour of it having government representation," he said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) had approved 486 manufacturing licences under the Industrial Coordination Act 1975 between January and August this year.

Its deputy minister Datuk Jacob Dungau Sagan said the licences were issued to companies undertaking manufacturing activities by having shareholders' funds amounting to at least RM2.5 million or hiring at least 75 full-time employees.

He said this when replying to Sim Tong Him (DAP-Kota Melaka) in the Dewan Rakyat sitting, here today.

Sim wanted to know the total number of manufacturing licences issued by MITI up to August as well as the terms and conditions for obtaining the licence.

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