

**Utusan Malaysia Provides Space For Opposition, Says Asst Editor  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- The Utusan Malaysia daily clarified that it provided space for news on opposition leaders even though the percentage was not the same as for government-related news.

On the other hand, newspapers owned by the opposition such as Harakah and Suara Keadilan did not in the least bit exhibit an open attitude in the delivery of their news, said Utusan Malaysia's assistant editor-in-chief 1, Datuk Zaini Hassan during an interview on the Hotseat programme by Bernama Radio24.

"For instance, Utusan Malaysia readers can make their own analysis of our news content. At Utusan, we provide space for news on opposition leaders. News on Nik Aziz, Abdul Hadi Awang, Hasan Ali and DAP and PKR leaders, it's all there," he said.

"Of course the percentage of news content for the opposition does not touch 100 or 50 percent but it's at least within 30-70 or 40-60," he added.

Zaini was commenting on the recent statement by the National Union of Journalists urging mainstream media to provide balanced coverage to all parties including the opposition.

Zaini was of the opinion that criticisms against mainstream media, including Utusan Malaysia which was considered as being one-sided, in its reporting was not fair and needed to be viewed from a more rational perspective.

He went on to slam the actions of a small group which was attempting to badmouth the paper lately and described their effort as a sign of their fear of Utusan Malaysia's reporting strength.

He said Utusan Malaysia was not afraid of publishing news which was seen as constructive criticisms against the government.

If there were certain issues which required constructive criticisms for the better, the paper would do so, he said.

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