

PM: Govt won't interfere in press council
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Government will not interfere with the press council that was formed by editors of local mass media to self-regulate the industry, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said the Government welcomed the efforts of Malaysian media editors to form an alliance to prepare a workable and practical code of ethics that focuses on journalistic principles.

The code would become the guiding principle in their duties in collecting and publishing information, he added.

"It is up to the industry to self regulate when it comes to editorial professionalism. The Government will accept any suggestions brought forth within an open heart and mind," he said in his speech during the Malaysian Press Institute (MPI) - Petronas Malaysian Journalism Awards Friday night.

In September last year, the editors of major Malaysian newspapers formed the council following a dialogue with the Home Ministry.

This move would soon see the setting up of a Press Council Act to guide newsmen and media organisations.

Najib agreed that emerging developments on the mass media landscape required changes to the rules and regulations related to the media.

"The committee can assist in upholding media freedom that goes in tandem with the current realities of the country.

"I am agreeable to the notion that the regulations governing the media should not remain static.

"We are living in a digital era with borderless access to information.

"The Government's policy is to create a fully wireless country because we do not want our people to be like katak di bawah tempurung' (to be ignorant of the world)," he added.

Najib called on the Malaysian mass media industry members to carry out their duties to disseminate information in a fair and responsible manner.

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