

Observe ethics, media practitioners reminded
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PUTRAJAYA (Aug 16, 2011): Media practitioners and stakeholders must observe the highest level of ethics and refrain from creating social tension or bringing adverse effect on racial relations in the country or internationally.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said everyone, including the media, has their right and freedom but individual freedom should not be higher than freedom of the masses.

"If your personal freedom is at the expense of the masses, to the extent of creating havoc and insecurity to any sections or populations, then you are not responsible.

"We cannot let a person do something, claiming it is his right. Because, when there is havoc, the government is responsible to solve the problems and protect the people.

"So, there must be a limit. It does not mean we want to control in terms of law, but there must be restraint, awareness and sense of responsibility," he said, at a press conference after the prize presentation ceremony of the National Science and Mathematics Creative Competition here today.

Muhyiddin was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak's statement on Monday in which Najib said the government will review its current media censorship laws as they are no longer effective.

The government needs "new wisdom" when it comes to issues of cyberspace, Muhyiddin said, adding that while the government does not censor the internet, it has a monitoring system.

"It is a very difficult situation. It is a new world we are facing today where cyberspace and technology influence individual rights, laws and people's power. We need to have new wisdom in managing it.

"Nevertheless, we monitor the situation – read blogs, Twitter and Facebook. The government has to be careful and always on the alert so that the right to communicate in cyberspace does not end up creating public disorder," he said.

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