

**MYJC Supports Government Move To Consider Licensing News Portal
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 4 (Bernama) - The Malaysian Young Journalists Club (MYJC) supports the government move to consider following Singapore's example by licensing online news portals.

Its president, Dzulkarnain Taib said it is the best move to prevent the spread of false information that can disrupt unity in the country.

"Its time the government act firmly to stop the culture of hatred and lies spread by unethical and irresponsible news portals," he said in a statement here Tuesday.

The development of internet-based media should be in line with the government objectives and to protect the independence of the internet as contained in the Multimedia Super Corridor Bill of Guarantees.

He said the existence of numerous news portals and blogs that threaten the unity and political stability of the country is a worrying phenomenon.

The orientation and reporting treatment of news portals often touch sensitive issues related to Malay rights, the Malay Rulers, the status of Islam as the religion of the federation and the position of the Malay language as the official language.

"If this situation is allowed to persist, it is likely to affect national unity," said Dzulkarnian, a former chief editor of Suara Keadilan.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said the ministry is studying Singapore's regulations on licensing of news portals so that they are consistent with the principles of press freedom and its effectiveness.

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