

**Malaysian Media Community Should Initiate National Media Day - Ahmad Shabery
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BENGKULU, Feb 9 (Bernama) -- Communication and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said the initiative to organise a National Media Day in Malaysia should come from its own media community in line with the freedom of press.

"I should ask the Malaysian press if they want to organise it. If they do then we will support them. In Indonesia its the media community which organises the event and the government supports them," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after the Indonesian National Press Day (Hari Pers (Media) Nasional (HPN) assembly at Fort Marlborough, Kota Bengkulu here today.

Ahmad Shabery was responding to queries from Malaysian journalists as to whether the Malaysian authorities intended to have such a celebration in Malaysia.

The HPN was attended by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono for the 10th and final time as the leader of the republic before the end of his term in October.

Ahmad Shabery said the government did not want to be misunderstood as trying to control or own the media if it initiated the event.

"All this while we have supported the Malaysian Press Institute. The Prime Minister always attends their annual dinner, so there's no reason for the government not to support an event like this if it's organised by the media itself," he said.

The Indonesian Media community today awarded Yudhoyono the title of "Media Friend" in appreciation of his service and contribution to the media and as a farewell present as Indonesia's sixth president.

In his speech, Yudhoyono said he and his family were never spared from being criticised and attacked by the media during his 10 years as President.

He stressed however that they had done him a service by making him stronger and able to lead Indonesia and its population of more than 240 million.

As he was leaving the venue with the First Lady, Ibu Ani Bambang Yudhoyono, he was greeted by the Malaysian media delegation and posed for pictures with them outside Fort Marlborough.

He told the delegates to send his greetings to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Muadzam Shah and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak

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