

PRESS STATEMENT

16 February 2025

CIJ In Solidarity with Affected Employees of Petra News Sdn Bhd

The Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) stands in unwavering solidarity with the affected employees of *The Malaysian Insight*, *The Vibes*, and *Getaran* in their fight for justice and rightful [demand for unpaid wages and statutory contributions from Petra News Sdn Bhd](#).

We commend the 15 media workers for their courage in lodging a police report in an attempt to hold their (former) employer accountable.

It is deeply concerning that in the current Malaysian media landscape, media workers continue to fight for the bare minimum—fair wages, timely payments, and legally mandated contributions. The failure of Petra News Sdn Bhd to remit Employees Provident Fund (EPF), Monthly Tax Deductions (PCB), and Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) contributions—despite deducting them from employees' salaries—is not just a breach of trust but a blatant violation of labour laws.

These unlawful actions threaten the very foundation of the critical role of media as the fourth estate of democracy. A free and independent media cannot exist without the protection of the rights and the guarantee of fair, safe and dignified working conditions for those who uphold it.

Thus, we urge the following:

- 1) The authorities, including the Department of Labour and relevant ministries, to act decisively and with no further delays in providing the necessary legal protection, durable solutions and ensuring accountability. The repeated absence of enforcement action against Petra News Sdn Bhd despite documented evidence and official complaints is deeply concerning and undermines the credibility of labour protections in Malaysia.
- 2) The government must take swift action to prevent further exploitation of media workers and guarantee that their rights are protected and they face no reprisals in holding their (former) employer accountable.
- 3) Petra News Sdn Bhd to immediately fulfill its obligations and work towards a constructive resolution.

It is time for action and accountability!

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The Centre for Independent Journalism is a non-profit organisation that aspires for a society that is democratic, just and free where all peoples will enjoy free media and the freedom to express, seek and impart information.