

# Welfare of media practitioners need attention

**KOTA SAMARAHAN:** A framework should be established to protect members of the media in terms of their welfare and well-being.

In stating this, New Sarawak Tribune online editor Nazmi Suhaimi said this is because media personnel are working in a high-risk environment.

"We are asked to travel to places that people would not go, and like it or not, we have to take the risk," he said.

He also said ensuring the welfare of media practitioners is crucial given the increasing number of journalists working until old age.

"There are those who are 50 to 60 years old, they are still working as journalists on the streets.

"Therefore, there should be a certain system of assistance, in which the welfare of those journalists is being taken care of," he said adding that this is in line with the current trend of an ageing population nationwide.

He said this during a forum titled "Newspaper as a Medium



**NAZMI** (centre) receives a memento from Dr Dayang Aizza Maisha Abang Ahmad, chairperson of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's (UNIMAS) International Conference on Media and Society (IC-MAS2022) cum Faculty of Language and Communication, deputy dean (right). Looking on is UNIMAS Publisher director Malia Taibi.

Inclusivity — Stories from Sarawak Tribune" in conjunction with International Conference on Media and Society (IC-MAS2022) at DeTAR Putra University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) in Kota Samarahan yesterday.

Nazmi was commenting on an earlier statement by Federal Minister of Communications and Digital, Fahmi Fadzil who said the establishment of the Malaysia Media Council is being studied by the federal government.

The Federal Minister was reported to have said that he needed to get details regarding the proposed establishment of the media council from media industry players, especially journalists' associations, besides

giving an assurance that press freedom and the welfare of media practitioners would be given priority.

Earlier, it was announced that Fahmi will organise a meeting with various media organisations to study the need for the establishment of the Malaysia Media Council.

Meanwhile, Nazmi said with greater access to information by society, there is a need to conduct fact-checks when coming across reports of news of dubious nature.

"At the same time, reporters too must play their role in being neutral and not having vested interest that could affect the authenticity of their reporting.

"They are duty bound to deliver the truth — inform and educate the members of the public. As for Sarawak, I hope that we can foster a discussion that is based on policies in the future. Only by doing this that we can progress as a society," he said.

**KUCHING:** The Charity without Borders (CWB), an initiative by the Hope Place has entered its ninth expedition this year, bringing much needed healthcare services to two locations in Kapit, namely Bebangsan and Sungai Tiau.

More than 10 4x4 clubs throughout Sarawak as well as Sarawak Health Department and officers from the Kapit Fire and Rescue Department, involving 138 vehicles and 480 volunteers had visited the villages last week.

In a statement yesterday (Dec 21), Hope Place said among those who joined the convey this year were Munsang Winch 4x4 Club (Bintulu and Kapit), Belaga 4x4 Club, Bintulu 4x4 Club, Chama 4x4 Club, Miri 4x4 Club, Batu Niah 4x4 Club, Sibul Pemilik 4x4, Sri Aman 4x4, Lee Global 4x4 Club and Sibul Ahsoon 4x4 Club.

They met at Kapit town last Thursday (Dec 15) at the Asrama Belia Kapit before they were split into two teams.

The first team went to three villages at Bebangsan which mainly consists of senior citizens, whose livelihood depends on their farm, fishing and hunting.

The second team went to four villages at Sg. Tiau Mujong, Nanga Sg. Tiau and Ulu Sg. Tiau. Both teams had to go through

# Charity takes healthcare to interior villages

more than three hours of off-road to reach their destination.

The State Health Department led by Dr Azlee Ayub and 28 of his medical personnel had brought medical supplies and equipment to the villages and conducted general health screening, eye check and dentistry services to more than 600 villagers.

Meanwhile, Hope Place distributed food supplies, worth RM60,000 to 203 doors (of longhouses) in seven villages. Hope Place had thanked all sponsors and donors including Heineken Malaysia.

Besides distributing food aid and giving healthcare services, Kapit Fire Department officers also conducted safety briefing and demonstration of using fire extinguishers.

A total of 98 fire extinguishers were presented to these seven villages, sponsored by Maysville Sdn. Bhd.



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