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HAWANA honours media correspondence nationwide

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KUALA LUMPUR: National Journalists' Day (HAWANA), celebrated annually on May 29, reflects the government's appreciation for media practitioners who serve as the primary information bridge between the administration and the people.

Far from being just a fixture on the industry calendar, the HAWANA platform recognises these unsung heroes who uphold public trust by delivering real facts, while acting as credible conduits for government policies and the pulse of the community.

Themed "Media Integrity Strengthens Credibility", the country's largest media gathering serves as an important arena to strengthen journalistic professionalism amid a challenging communication landscape.

A unique feature of this year's celebration is the special invitation extended to information and communications ministers from ASEAN member countries to attend HAWANA 2026.

Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil had previously said that the celebration highlights HAWANA's position as the premier platform for strengthening strategic cooperation within the media industry at both national and regional levels.

HAWANA is celebrated annually to commemorate the publication of the first edition of the Utusan Melayu newspaper on May 29, 1939, and to mark appreciation for the services



and contributions of media practitioners to nation-building.

Organised by the Ministry of Communications, with the Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) as the implementing agency, HAWANA is the ultimate platform to recognise the contributions, diligence, and professionalism of media practitioners in Malaysia. The role of journalists today is increasingly critical in confronting the threat of fake news, which can disrupt social harmony.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Communication Programme senior lecturer, Assoc Prof Dr Lee Kuok Tiung said HAWANA is the highest recognition for the sacrifices of journalists, who serve as a bulwark of credible information.

"The world of journalism will continue to grow because rising literacy among the global population has led to an increasing demand for information sources," he said.
Bernama. – BERNAMA