



9 SEPTEMBER, 2025

**TO ALL NEWS EDITORS**

**PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The National Union of Journalists Peninsular Malaysia (NUJM) welcomes the tabling of the Gig Workers Bill 2025 today.

NUJ sees this 2<sup>nd</sup> reading as an essential move to protect workers rights and to recognise the rights of gig economy workers in Malaysia and as in NUJ's interest, our freelancers that include freelance reporters and photographers across various media sectors.

By introducing legal recognition and extending social and workplace protections, the bill marks a positive move towards addressing longstanding vulnerabilities faced by freelancers.

Freelancers are part of the NUJ's scope of membership and must be explicitly given the right to engage in collective bargaining to ensure their voices are heard in shaping fairer working conditions.

For too long, freelancers/stringers have worked without proper labour protection, as if their contributions to the media industry did not deserve recognition.

NUJ also views that companies who engage with freelancers for news articles and photos/videos should provide mandatory contributions to the Social Security Organization and Employees Provident Fund and must be enforced, with legal action taken against non-compliant companies.

The Bill also aims to protect gig workers from discrimination, unfair dismissal, and ensure access to social protection and dispute resolution. It reflects the government's ongoing efforts to build a more progressive and resilient employment system. It is hoped that the Bill will be a catalyst for wider participation, and make social protection a basic necessity rather than an option.

However, the NUJ proposes the bill to be submitted to the appropriate parliamentary select committee for detail scrutiny by the committee of the provisions of the bill.

For the benefit of our freelance members, the NUJ welcomes and is ready to work with the government and relevant stakeholders to ensure that the legislation is consistent with human rights principles and contributes to the goal of decent work for all.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Committee,

**TEH ATHIRA YUSOF**  
General Secretary, NUJ

