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POLITICAL INFLUENCE ON NEWS REPORTING

'The people should own media firms'

BANGI: The government is looking into ownership of media companies by trustees or cooperatives to counter political influence on news reporting.

Veteran journalist Datuk A. Kadir Jasin, who is special adviser to the prime minister on media and communications, said this was to cut down on the influence on companies via government-linked companies.

"Back then (before the 14th General Election), the issue was Umno's influence on the media. Now (the government is looking into) cooperatives or trustees (owning media company shares) so that political parties or GLCs do not own media companies.

"This needs assistance from the stakeholders. Instead of media being owned by political parties, it should be owned by the people."

He said this in a speech at the 2018 National Media Forum: Realising Pakatan Harapan Era Media Freedom at Universiti Tenaga Nasional here.

Present were *Utusan Malaysia* assistant chief editor I Datuk Mohd Zaini Hassan, *Malay Mail* managing editor Leslie Lau, *Malaysiakini* founder Premesh Chandran and *Sinar Harian* editorial executive adviser Datuk Abd Jalil Ali.



Datuk A. Kadir Jasin