

= National Press Monument =

The National Press Monument ( Indonesian : Monumen Pers Nasional ) is a monument and museum to the national Indonesian press . Formally established in 1978 , more than 20 years after it was first proposed , the monument is located in Surakarta , Central Java , and operated by the Ministry of Communications and Information . The complex consists of an old society building , which was constructed in 1918 and used for the first meeting of the Reporters Association of Indonesia ( Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia , or PWI ) , as well as several subsequent expansions ; it is listed as a Cultural Property of Indonesia .

The National Press Monument has a collection of over a million newspapers and magazines , as well as a variety of exhibitions and artefacts related to the history of the press in Indonesia . Facilities include a multimedia room , free @-@ to @-@ read newspapers , and a library . It is promoted as a site for educational tourism through various exhibitions and Facebook , and in 2013 it was visited by over 26 @,@ 000 people .

= = History = =

The building in which the National Press Monument is now housed was constructed in 1918 under the orders of Mangkunegara VII , Prince of Mangkunegaran Palace , as a society building and meeting hall . It was known as Sociëteit " Sasana Soeka " and designed by Mas Abu Kasan Atmodirono . In 1933 R.M. Sarsito Mangunkusumo and several other engineers met in the building and formed the basis of the Soloche Radio Vereeniging ( SRV ) , the first public radio operated by native Indonesians . Thirteen years later , on 9 February 1946 , the Reporters Association of Indonesia ( Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia , or PWI ) was formed in the building ; the date is commemorated in Indonesia as National Press Day . During the Japanese occupation of the Dutch East Indies the building housed a clinic to treat troops , and during the Indonesian National Revolution it was used as an office of the Indonesian Red Cross Society .

On 9 February 1956 , during an event celebrating ten years of the PWI , high @-@ profile reporters such as Rosihan Anwar , B.M. Diah , and S. Tahsin suggested that a foundation be established which could manage a national press museum . This foundation was formalised on 22 May 1956 , with its collection mostly being donated by Soedarjo Tjokrosisworo . Only some fifteen years later did the foundation begin plans for establishing a physical museum , the plans for which were formally announced by Minister of Information Budiarjo on 9 February 1971 . The name " National Press Monument " was formalised in 1973 , and in 1977 the land was donated to the government . The museum was formally opened on 9 February 1978 , after several new buildings were added . In his dedication speech , President Suharto warned the press about the dangers of freedom , stating " exercising freedom for freedom 's sake is a luxury we cannot afford " .

In 2012 the museum was headed by Sujatmiko . That year David Kristian Budhiyanto of Petra Christian University wrote that the museum was rarely visited and in some places poorly maintained . He posited this to be based on a popular view of museums as unexciting or boring places . In order to attract new visitors , the museum has initiated several competitions in 2012 and 2013 , including a photography contest on the museum 's Facebook page . It has also undertaken mobile exhibitions , showing some of its collection in cities such as Yogyakarta and Magelang . Between January and September 2013 the museum received 26 @,@ 249 visitors , an increase of 250 per cent over the previous year 's target ; this was credited to the various promotional efforts undertaken . The museum is now promoted as a site for educational tourism and accepts donations of materials related to the press in Indonesia .

= = Description = =

The National Press Monument is located at 59 Gajah Mada Street in Surakarta , Central Java , at the corner of Gajah Mada and Yosodipuro Streets . It is west of Mangkunegaran Palace . The complex consists of the original Sasana Soeka building , two two @-@ story buildings , as well as a

four @-@ story building ; these additions were constructed much later . At the front of the museum is a parking area and two public boards where the latest editions of local newspapers ( in 2013 , Solo Pos , Suara Merdeka , and Republika ) can be read freely . The front façade is decorated with a naga design symbolising the year 1980 , the year in which construction was completed .

Management of the museum is handled by the Ministry of Communications and Information ( Kementerian Komunikasi dan Informatika ) . The administrative structure consists of the museum head and administrative manager , as well as divisions for customer service , conservation and preservation , and day @-@ to @-@ day activities . As of 2013 , the museum employs 24 civil servants . The building is listed as a Cultural Property of Indonesia .

The museum includes a media centre , where the general public can access the internet without charge on one of nine computers ; a library , with a collection of approximately 12 @,@ 000 books ; and a room in which digitalised copies of old newspapers and magazines can be read . Digitalisation of this media is completed on @-@ site . A microfilm room is available , though it is no longer used .

The National Press Monument regularly conducts seminars regarding the press , media , and communications . It holds themed exhibitions of media based on national holidays , including Independence Day , the anniversary of the Youth Pledge , and National Press Day ; the museum may also take some of its collection on a mobile exhibition . The digital collection and library is accessible to the general public , while researchers may access paper copies of the newspapers and magazines .

= = Holdings = =

The museum holds over a million newspapers and magazines published in various parts of the Indonesian archipelago from colonial times until the present day . It also has numerous pieces of communications technology and technology used in reporting , including aerials , typewriters , transmitters , telephones , and a large kenthongan . The front of the main entrance hall holds ten busts of important figures in the history of journalism in Indonesia . This includes Tirto Adhi Soerjo , Djamaluddin Adinegoro , Sam Ratulangi , and Ernest Douwes Dekker .

In the rear of the main entrance hall is a series of six dioramas illustrating communications and the press throughout Indonesian history . The first diorama shows various forms of communication and news @-@ sharing in pre @-@ colonial Indonesia . The second diorama shows the press in the colonial period , including the first newspaper in the Indies under the Dutch East India Company , *Memories der Nouvelles* ( 1615 ) ; the first printed newspaper in the Indies , the *Bataviasche Nouvelles* ( 1744 ) , and the first Javanese newspaper in the Indies , *Bromartani* ( 1855 ) . The third diorama depicts the press during the Japanese occupation , whereas the fourth depicts the press during the National Revolution ? including the formation of the PWI . The fifth diorama shows the state of the press during the New Order under President Suharto , a time of great press censorship . The final diorama depicts the press after the beginning of Reformasi in 1998 , in which greater freedom of the press has been granted .

The museum also holds various artefacts which belonged to journalists from pre- and post @-@ independence Indonesia . This includes an Underwood typewriter which once belonged to Bakrie Soeriatmadja , a vocal journalist for the Bandung @-@ based *Sipatahoenan* ; a shirt in which Hendro Subroto was shot while covering the Indonesian occupation of East Timor in 1975 ; parachuting equipment used by Trisnojuwono in covering the solar eclipse of 11 June 1983 ; and a camera used by Fuad Muhammad Syafruddin , a journalist for the Yogyakarta @-@ based *Bernas* who was killed after covering a corruption scandal in 1995 . More artefacts , from journalists such as Mochtar Lubis , were still being acquired as of October 2013 .