



MAJLIS KEBANGSAAN PERTUBUHAN-PERTUBUHAN WANITA MALAYSIA
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS MALAYSIA (NCWO)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dear Editor,

Historic signing of MoU between the National Council of Women's Organisations and Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development

Putrajaya saw a historic event on April 27th when the National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO) signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development to further establish commitment between the two entities to strengthen the government-civil society relationship on advancing women's empowerment and gender equality. This is probably the first time a Malaysian ministry has signed a strategic planning MoU with a civil society group.

The MoU spells out greater coherence in the roll out of the National Policy on Women by ensuring representation of NCWO in the Women's Development Department (Jabatan Pembangunan Wanita or JPW) at state and national level committees to do strategic planning and implementation of priority issues for advancing women's empowerment and gender equality, which will be duly guided by relevant regional and international frameworks, in partnership with identified groups, including research institutions, universities, government agencies, civic groups and other relevant parties.

The National Council of Women's Organisations has been collaborating with all ministries to advocate for the advancement of women as well as their integration into the mainstream since it was established in 1962. Over the past 55 years, NCWO has worked relentlessly with the government to ensure equity for Malaysian women in terms of employment, job placements, wages, social and economic welfare, and integration of women at all levels of all institutions in the country. Although much has been achieved over the years, there is still more to be done.

The signing of the MoU was done in the presence of Dato' Sabariah Hassan, Ketua Setiausaha KPWKM and Datuk Roosme Hamzah, Ketua Pengarah JPW as well as Prof. Emerita Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin, NCWO president and Omna Sreeni-Ong, NCWO Secretary General, as well as a number of other NCWO management officers and KPWKM/JPW representatives. Both Sabariah and Sharifah agreed to commit to this agreement for a stronger future of the Malaysian woman.

The MoU will benefit all Malaysians as it will contribute to the following objectives:

- To strengthen the implementation of the National Women's Policy (Dasar Wanita Negara) at the national, states, and grassroots levels.
- To develop consistent strategies for advancing women's empowerment and gender equality towards the achievement of identified areas in the social, economic and political spheres.
- To provide technical and other relevant support and expertise in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programmes related to advancing women's empowerment and gender equality.
- To provide a people-centred or inclusive approach to realising the aspirations of the National Policy on Women.

NCWO hopes to become the focal point for government departments, other NGOs, community, and regional/international conventions and bodies in advancing women's empowerment and gender equality, for more effective coordination among all relevant parties.

For more information, please contact:

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