



**MEDIA STATEMENT
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)**

EDITOR, NEWS DESK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (4 AUGUST 2022) - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) had received a complaint, in relation to the death of 36 year old Kim Shih Keat in Kluang Prison, Johor, on 28 June 2022.

In line with its power as defined under the Human Rights Commission Act 1999 [Act 597], SUHAKAM has initiated an investigation and, thus far, obtained detailed information from the family of the deceased, as well as recorded statements from prison officers and the prisoner's cellmates at the Kluang Prison on 2 August 2022.

SUHAKAM takes a serious view of death in custody (DIC) cases and continues to engage with the relevant stakeholders to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and, to enact or review of relevant laws in addressing this issue. SUHAKAM is of the view that all DIC cases should be investigated through an inquest process which is transparent and comprehensive in manner. SUHAKAM wishes to reiterate the importance of Custodial Health Unit (CHU) in Police Detention Centres which aims to monitor and manage the health of those detained, to minimise the risk of DICs. This initiative was initiated by SUHAKAM in collaboration with the Royal Police Malaysia (PDRM) and Ministry of Health (MOH).

SUHAKAM had published the report on "Deaths in Police Custody: a Thematic Study on Lock-Up Conditions and Factors Contributing to Death" in 2016, and "The Right to Health in Prison in Malaysia" in 2017. Both reports highlighted the importance of on-going monitoring and management of detainees' health while they are in detention.

The right to life is guaranteed in Article 5(1) of the Federal Constitution, Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). DIC remains, as it always has been, a major focus and SUHAKAM stands ready to work with the authorities to identify ways and means to reduce the risk of DICs.

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Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)

4 August 2022

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"Human Rights For All"

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