



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

**EDITOR, NEWS DESK**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**KUALA LUMPUR (17 FEBRUARY 2023)** – The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) welcomes the announcement made by the Minister of Home Affairs, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, that the children in the immigration depots will soon be placed under the care of non-governmental organizations that specialise in child welfare.

The decision is in line with SUHAKAM's recommendation to the Government to implement Alternatives to Detention (ATD) for children in immigration depot. SUHAKAM hopes that with the positive announcement, the enforcement authorities will ensure that children will never be placed at the immigration depots anymore.

As a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Malaysia is obliged to ensure that the detention of a child shall be used as a measure of last resort, in particular when they were detained together with their parents or guardians due to immigration offenses.

SUHAKAM has consistently raised concerns about the detention of children in immigration facilities, where the authorities must ensure the welfare and best interests of the children are look into. It is also important that these children are not subjected to further trauma or harm during the process of being transferred.

SUHAKAM will continue to monitor the implementation of ATD and advocate for the rights and well-being of all children in Malaysia and hopes the government is consistent in upholding children's well-being regardless of their immigration status.

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**Prof. Dato' Dr. Rahmat Mohamad**  
**Chairman**  
**Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)**  
**17 February 2023**