



**MEDIA STATEMENT
THE OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)**

EDITOR, NEWS DESK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (18 MAY 2022) - The recent occurrence of child abuse or neglect cases allegedly perpetrated by childcare providers or babysitters was deeply disturbing and alarming. The unimaginable harshness and callous indifference shown towards children by the foregoing cases should serve as a painful lesson to all segments of society and impart a sense of urgency and seriousness to the primary caregivers.

Although the state has the primary obligation in safeguarding the rights of the children, the protection for children cannot be secured without the parents and guardians being vigilant of their own extensive responsibilities towards children and the efforts to meet the needs of children. It is vitally important that parents and guardians are aware of the competency of individuals who are not only in contact with their children but also entrusted with them. The onus is on the parents or guardians to equip themselves with knowledge in looking for childcare centres/ providers that meet the requirements prescribed by the law and regulated by the Department of Social Welfare Malaysia (JKM).

The CC is appealing to the community to take an active role in supporting governmental agencies by reporting unlicensed/ unregistered childcare centres to JKM. The community should also be conscious of their collective responsibility and the impact of their action in helping which will lend support to tackle the prevalence of child abuse incidents in unlicensed and licensed childcare centres whilst the care system is rapidly expanding.

CC would like to urge children of mature age to be made aware of the various children's issues that affect them directly or indirectly. The knowledge and information about children's rights should be disseminated commensurate with their age. Their ability to understand not only their safety but also that of their peers is pertinent to inform report instances of child abuse to other adults when they are in the position of being victimised or witnessing abuse.

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**Dr Farah Nini Dusuki
Children's Commissioner
18 May 2023**