



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

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PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (19 JUNE 2023) –The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) warmly welcomes the recent announcement that Malaysia has moved out of the lowest tier in the U.S Department of State’s 2023 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report for 2023. Malaysia's upgraded status to the Tier 2-Watch List category signifies significant progress in addressing human trafficking issues compared to previous years.

SUHAKAM commends the concerted efforts of the Malaysian government and all stakeholders in improving the country's TIP ranking. The measures taken by the government reflect a firm commitment to combat human trafficking and recognize the importance of moving out of Tier 3 to avoid potential sanctions on local products.

While acknowledging and commending this noteworthy accomplishment, it is crucial to emphasize the ongoing commitment required in the fight against human trafficking. Despite the progress made, there is still much work to be done to combat this grave violation of human rights. SUHAKAM urges the Malaysian government to continue prioritizing efforts to prevent human trafficking, protect victims, and ensure accountability for perpetrators.

As an organization dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights, including the fight against human trafficking, SUHAKAM remains steadfast in supporting initiatives aimed at eradicating this heinous crime. Collaboration between the government, civil society organizations, and relevant stakeholders is important to realize the objectives of the National Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons 2021-2025 (NAPTIP 3.0) and the National Action Plan on Forced Labor 2021-2025 (NAPFL). Such collaborations will undoubtedly strengthen Malaysia's response to human trafficking, safeguard the well-being and rights of all individuals within the country, and contribute to the elimination of this deplorable practice.

SUHAKAM reiterates the importance of the Government intensifying its efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. We emphasize the need for full protection and assistance for trafficked and smuggled victims at all stages, in accordance with the international standards set by the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as a protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

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Prof. Dato’ Dr. Rahmat Mohamad
Chairman
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
19 June 2023