



PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (12 SEPTEMBER 2023) - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) wishes to release its findings of the investigation regarding alleged human rights violations at Rumah Pemulihan Akhlak Insani (Rumah Insani) in Bukit Beruntung, Selangor.

Pursuant to its investigation powers stipulated under Section 12 (1) of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia Act 1999 [Act 597], SUHAKAM has carried out and completed the investigation in June 2023 which includes monitoring visit, recording statements from 33 witnesses, compilation of 49 exhibits, and discussions with relevant agencies. Evidence from SUHAKAM's investigation has led to the discovery of numerous systemic irregularities and violation of laws in the management and administration of the institution.

In its findings, SUHAKAM has identified the following key issues:

- i. Rumah Insani has been operating illegally in conducting rehabilitation programs according to Drug Dependants (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act 1983 [Act 283] and the Mental Health Act 2001 [Act 615];
- ii. The registration of one of the premises belong to Rumah Insani has expired and this violates the Section 4 of Care Centers Act 1993 [Act 506];
- iii. Children's care and rehabilitation program at Rumah Insani are in conflict with the Children Act 2001 [Act 611];
- iv. Rumah Insani violates Section 29A (2) of the Education Act of 1996 [Act 550] by not sending trainees under the age of 18 to school;
- v. The treatment and rehabilitation programs for trainees at Rumah Insani are not in compliance with the Care Centers Act 1993 [Act 506];
- vi. Various human rights violations contravene Article 5 and Article 8 of the Federal Constitution and Article 3 to Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); and
- vii. An investigation by the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) found out that some the trainers under the custody of Rumah Insani are listed in the PDRM 'wanted list'.



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In response to its findings, SUHAKAM has outlined the following key recommendations:

- i. The Department of Social Welfare and Selangor Islamic Religious Council to review the registration and operation of Rumah Insani by taking into account the findings of SUHAKAM investigation and the prosecution by Royal Malaysian Police.
- ii. Relevant agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare, the Islamic Religious Council and the National Anti-Drugs Agency to review the registration status of all centers and continuously monitor other registered rehabilitation centres. This is to ensure the care and rehabilitation programs are conducted in compliance with the existing regulations.
- iii. As part of human rights violations prevention measures, the Government should establish a Special Committee comprises of various government agencies to examine, monitor and to develop relevant policies with regard to the operation of the private rehabilitation centers.

SUHAKAM encourages the public to actively share information and report instances of human rights violations in any rehabilitation center or care facilities. SUHAKAM also calls for all parties to intensify the collaborative effort in addressing this issue and urges for the authorities to continue monitor the operation of all rehabilitation centers in Malaysia.

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**Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
12 September 2023**