



**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 (22 SEPTEMBER 2023)** – The Children's Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), Dr Farah Nini Dusuki, is distressed by the reported incident of a student suffering an eye injury resulting from caning to address his misbehaviour. The incident should serve as a wake-up call for the government and society to have an attitudinal change towards corporal punishment.

The Education (School Discipline) Regulations 1959 and MOE Circular No 7/2003 on guidelines for the use of caning in schools should be strictly followed and made aware of by all students, teachers, and parents. Any excessive corporal punishment that causes injury to the student should warrant the legal implications found in Section 31 of the Child Act 2001 [Act 611], which include a liability of a fine not exceeding fifty thousand ringgits, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding twenty years, or both.

However, it is noteworthy to highlight that despite the strict regulation stipulated by the Ministry of Education in carrying out caning, there is an existing inherent risk of perpetrating severe harm if the executor gets carried away by emotions or carelessness. Therefore, there is an urgency to shift towards non-violent teaching and parenting methods to reduce the cases of any harm and injury resulting from corporal punishment.

The Ministry of Education is urged to reconsider and review its stance on corporal punishment and its associated harm. Any form of punishment on children must be capable of benefiting from the correction. Educating through fear or pain has been proven to have negative consequences on the mental, physical, and self-esteem of the students. Students should be made to understand the logical consequences of their misbehaviour and resolve any conflicts through dialogic learning. It is strongly recommended that the government should proactively explore alternative discipline strategies to protect students' dignity and inculcate respect while cultivating decision-making skills as a form of correction.

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**Dr Farah Nini Dusuki  
Children's Commissioner  
22 September 2023**