



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

EDITOR, NEWS DESK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (26 JANUARY 2024) — SUHAKAM observed Malaysia's Fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the 45th Session of the UPR Working Group in Geneva, Switzerland on 25 January 2024, and notes the range of human rights issues raised and recommendations received by Malaysia.

During the session, UN Member States recognised and welcomed the legal and institutional reforms implemented by the Government, which includes enhancement of rights protection for women, children and other vulnerable groups and strengthening of legislative reforms through the introduction of additional legal protections. A majority of UN Member States praised Malaysia for its decision to abolish the mandatory death penalty, which came into force on July 4, 2023. In addition, UN Member States also commended the Government's efforts to empower SUHAKAM as the national human rights institution by providing the institutional strength required to effectively promote and protect human rights in Malaysia.

Among other key recommendations to Malaysia during the review included to abolish in total the death penalty; to increase the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 years old; to enhance the rights, protection and improvement of the well-being of older persons and persons with disabilities; to abolish corporal punishment in schools; to combat issues related to trafficking in persons; to develop a framework to protect refugees, undocumented and stateless persons; to strengthen the social protection of vulnerable groups especially in rural areas; to ensure the conferment of Malaysian citizenship by Malaysian mothers to children born abroad; to repeal or review security laws and laws that impede on civil liberties; accede to the remaining core international human rights treaties and withdrawal of reservations to the treaties that have been ratified.

Malaysia's 4th UPR which was facilitated by Argentina, Eritrea and Vietnam who served as the 'troikas', witnessed reviews and recommendations from 130 United Nations (UN) Member States. SUHAKAM is of the view that the increased participation rate as compared to 111 UN Member States in Malaysia's Third UPR in 2018 reflects a greater interest on human rights situation in Malaysia for this cycle.

At the national level, SUHAKAM hosted a hybrid forum in the Faculty of Law, University Malaya with a live streaming and panel session in conjunction with the session held in Geneva. SUHAKAM moderated the panel discussion which has featured representatives from Pusat KOMAS (KOMAS), the Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement (ABIM), and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) South-East Asia Regional Office. SUHAKAM takes this opportunity to thank all participants for their contributions during the panel session which was aimed to raise awareness on the UPR process and served as a platform to discuss on critical human rights issues.



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

Having observed three previous cycles of the Malaysia's UPR, SUHAKAM acknowledges the positive impacts it has made thus far. SUHAKAM calls upon the Government to positively assess the recommendations submitted and fulfil its commitment towards achieving the UPR's objectives through a whole-of-society approach. SUHAKAM looks forward to the adoption of the outcome report on 31 January 2024, which will serve as a roadmap for Malaysia's continued progress in upholding human rights and promoting inclusivity.

-END-

**Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
26 January 2024**