



#NCM17



*“Ke Arah Pengasuhan Berkualiti”
“Moving As One Towards Quality Childcare”*

MESYUARAT KOLABORASI KEBANGSAAN KE 17 17TH NATIONAL COLLABORATION MEETING

For Joint Release on 15 October 2015

Kuching, Sarawak – Persatuan Pengasuh Berdaftar Malaysia’s (PPBM) 17th National Collaboration Meeting (#NCM17) from Wednesday, 14th October to Saturday 17th October 2015 at Penview Hotel Kuching, will be hosted by PPBM and Persatuan Pengasuh Kanak Kanak Berdaftar Sarawak (PPBS) in collaboration with Persatuan Pengasuh Kanak Kanak Berdaftar Miri (PPKBM), Persatuan Pengasuh & Pendidikan Awal Kanak Kanak Sarawak (3 PAKS) and Persatuan Pengasuh Kanak Kanak Berdaftar Sibul (PPKBS). #NCM17 will be launched on 15th October 2015 by YB Dato Sri Rohani Abdul Karim Minister of Women, Family and Community Development.

As the largest group of ECCE NGOs, the Executive Committees of PPBM and Affiliated State / District Associations meet annually in October for a **National Collaboration Meeting (NCM)** since 1999 to deliberate, debate and discuss key current issues and make recommendations to the Government for changes to laws, policies, regulations and programmes. This is aimed at enabling Malaysia to have a network of quality accessible and affordable childcare centers that can provide much needed critical childcare services especially for parents who are working and for single parents.

The current number of registered childcare centers (at 4,842) providing childcare services for approximately 65,000 children has set Malaysia as one of the countries in the world with the lowest level of childcare services (4 %) which is unable to meet the childcare needs of more than 2.9 million children under the age of four years. Under the NKEA EPP1, PEMANDU has estimated that by 2020 Malaysia will need to have at least **13,200** childcare centers to cater for childcare needs as more women enter the workforce. Whilst registered childcare centers is sorely lacking, the same cannot be said of thousands of unlicensed centers that are mushrooming in all communities. In addition to these issues the sector faces issues related to poor quality of childcare services, poorly trained or untrained childcare providers, high expectations of parents, high costs of providing services (high staff child ratio /space restrictions/ licensing issues/ GST /HRDF contributions etc) and inability of parents to pay reasonable childcare fees

#NCM17 is a consultative platform for establishing plans and strong partnerships in advocating for affordable and accessible quality childcare for children under four years and their families. #NCM17 also aims to provide a platform in addressing key ECCE issues with KPWKM and the Department of Social Welfare as well as to plan a cohesive integrated National Strategic Action Plan for the future. **YB Senator Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun, Deputy Minister of Women Family and Community Development** will be in attendance on 16th October for the Dialogue/ECCE Updates Session with all participants.

In addition to discussing current ECCE issues and challenges, the NCM will also focus on the capacity building of all NGOs within this Collaboration in order to provide all Executive Committee Members knowledge and skills to **Move As One** in delivering quality childcare services. Sharing of best practices in order that children have the best start in areas of their total development, nutrition, health, safety and protection will be the key to enabling stronger advocacy for investments in childcare

Participants will also join PPBS in their **25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee Gala Dinner** in celebration of PPBS's journey as one of the oldest State Associations on Thursday 15th October 2015 from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. There will be exciting performances, children eco-fashion show, photo booth, lucky draws and presentation of donations from PPBS to the Deaf-Mute Association and D'Wira Pusat Jagaan Kanak Kanak. **Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Fatimah Abdullah, Ministry of Welfare, Women and Family Development, Sarawak** will be the Guest of Honour for the event.

With just five years more to 2020, it is imperative that the childcare sector be revolutionised in order to fast track the setting up of a national network of high quality registered childcare centers (whether homebased/ institution based, workplace or community based) is available and accessible to families. This will in turn ensure that all children under four are getting the best start in life regardless of whether they are in marginalised rural or urban communities. Caring and educating children in the early years remain challenging in terms of rising costs and demand for childcare services. Ensuring professionalism of ECCE NGOs, childcare centers, ECCE training providers and child care providers is critical for the delivery of high quality childcare services. #NCM17 strives to get every stakeholder to **"Move As One Towards Quality Childcare"** in the best interests of all children in the early years

About PPBM

The Association of Registered Childcare Providers Malaysia or Persatuan Pengasuh Berdaftar Malaysia (PPBM) is the largest group of NGOs representing the childcare sector with 21 State/ District Associations working with government, NGOs, the private sector and the public to advocate for quality affordable and accessible childcare for children under 4 years.

For more information about PPBM, go to www.ppbm.org

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About PPBS

The Association of Registered Childcare Providers Sarawak also known as Persatuan Pengasuh Kanak-kanak Berdaftar Sarawak (PPBS) is a Non-Governmental Organization that was established since 1990 to look after the interest and welfare of young children and childcare service providers in Sarawak.

For more information about PPBS, go to www.ppbsarawak.org

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