

**FIFTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT  
1 - 5 APRIL 2019, NEW YORK**

**SIDE EVENT**

**POSITIVE PARENTING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION:  
VULNERABILITY OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

**Thursday, April 4th, 2019  
1:15-2:30 pm – Conference Room 1  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY**

Organized by  
International Federation for Family Development

Co-Sponsored by  
Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

with the collaboration of  
Division for Inclusive Social Development of UN Department of  
Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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**Presentation**

**The Role of the State in Empowering Family: Malaysia Experience**

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MINISTRY OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr. Moderator,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It is a great pleasure for me to be here as part of this event to share with others on the situation of family in Malaysia and initiatives that the Malaysian Government has taken to enhance the well-being of families in Malaysia. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) for organizing this side event together with other counterparts.
2. In order to enable the family institution to fulfil its societal roles and responsibilities, it requires support from the state, civil society and from family members themselves.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

3. Malaysia is a multi ethnic country with a total population of 33 millions. Family institution in Malaysia consisted of 7.9 millions with an average of 4.2 members. Malaysian families today are facing numerous challenges related to changing of population and family structure as well as pressures of complex family responsibilities. We are also witnessing the issues on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, changing attitudes towards marriage, work-life balance and intergenerational between elderly parents and young children.

## **[EMPOWERING FAMILIES INITIATIVES]**

**Colleagues and Friends,**

4. In view of the above trends and challenges, a National Family Policy will continue to be empowered. This policy will address the need for prioritizing family perspectives in all socio-economic development.

## **Sustaining the Standard of Living**

5. Although the Malaysian household income has improved over the years, the Government has acknowledged the difficulties faced by families following the increase in price of essential good. The Social Safety Net (SSN) Scheme was widened to include various types of support with particular attention was given to vulnerable families such as single mother, family with disabled person and the elderly.

6. In 2018, the Government has introduced a new initiative to homemakers for their long term saving plans and they are entitled for several benefits including annual dividends on retirement savings, incapacitation and death benefit.
7. Family with disabled person is also one of the concerns of the Government. Hence, through Social Welfare Department, the Government has introduced Economic Empowerment Programs (EEP) for person with disabilities to ensure their sustainability in open market to become financially independence.
8. As Malaysia moves towards being a developed high-income country, we must ensure that our family institution is not adversely affected with the rapid transformation especially low income families. Hence, the Malaysian Government has allocated a total of RM5 billion (USD1.2 billion) in 2019 National Budget which will benefit 4.1 million households as a financial assistance.
9. To sustain the standard of living, we strongly believe education is one of the catalysts. Therefore, the Government will strongly support the early childhood care and education (ECCE) and the importance of Technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

## **Family Programmes and Services**

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

10. The Malaysian Government acknowledges the needs to collaborate with private sectors, NGOs and the community to ensure inclusive development happens. Under the current National Development Plan (2016-2020), focus will be given on empowering communities to enhance inclusiveness by addressing the needs of the community including family.
11. Pre-marriage and marriage enrichment programmes will be promoted to inculcate family values, parenting skills and prudent financial management to strengthen the family institution. Besides parenting skills, the Government is improving the existing counselling services and family support system. We have also diversified our mechanism in delivering the family services via mobile family centres to ensure the accessibility for all.

12. To address the issue on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, The National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB) has established the youth friendly centres known as kafeTEEN to assist young people between the ages of 13-24 years. This centre provides information, knowledge and skills as well as counselling services on adolescent sexual and reproductive health.
13. Malaysia acknowledges that there is a need to develop a comprehensive set of indicators to evaluate and monitor the well-being of family institutions. Hence, NPFDB has taken the initiative to measure the family well-being in Malaysia in 2011, 2016 and 2019. The Family Well-being Index (FWBI) is a barometer of Malaysian families with their family lives as well as to be used in policy formulation, the development of new programmes and services as well as for future research.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

14. Before I conclude, permit me to say that Malaysia will continue to actively support initiatives to uphold, rebuild and strengthen the family institution. It is my hope that with our keen participation and active sharing of experiences, we will be able to identify the efforts needed in maintaining the family institutions in social development.