



FAMILY FRONTIERS

Persatuan Kebajikan Sokongan Keluarga Selangor & KL (PPM-011-10-24072020)

Association of Family Support & Welfare Selangor & KL (Family Frontiers)

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Press Statement

26 June 2026

Family Frontiers Rejects Sham Marriages; Calls Upon Government To Ensure Legitimate Malaysian Binational Families Are Protected

Family Frontiers notes with grave concern the worrisome reports regarding sham marriages entered into for the sole purpose of opening businesses. We strongly emphasise that **we do not condone sham marriages**, which are fraudulent arrangements that often underpin syndicate activities and exploit vulnerable Malaysian citizens. Such enforcement is necessary to preserve the integrity of marriage frameworks and ensure that resources are effectively directed toward protecting legitimate families.

We acknowledge that Malaysia's immigration department possesses robust detection frameworks, such as the Naziran system to identify and detect sham marriages. Making existing statistics and evidence regarding the number of detected sham marriages publicly available would be invaluable for assessing the true scale of the issue and shaping targeted policy responses.

However, it is critical to recognise that many non-Malaysian spouses pursue the business option primarily because they face significant barriers to legal employment upon transitioning from labour migration into binational family situations.

Accordingly, the government must ensure that enforcement actions aimed at curbing sham marriages do not inadvertently penalise or disrupt legitimate Malaysian binational families who are simply looking to sustain themselves and their Malaysian households.

Currently, the prohibition of employment that is explicitly stated on the Long-Term Social Visit Pass (LTSVP) issued to foreign spouses of Malaysian citizens creates significant, arbitrary barriers to legal employment for these genuine non-citizen spouses because employers are reluctant to employ them. A survey conducted by Family Frontiers found that 75% of non-citizen spouses possess a Bachelor's degree or higher, yet 49% of them remain unemployed.

For many spouses, particularly those transitioning from a migrant labour status, this blanket prohibition serves as a massive obstacle to securing standard employment. Left with no viable way to enter the formal job market legally, starting a business often becomes the only practical route for these legitimate spouses to sustain their Malaysian families.

Furthermore, it is vital to distinguish between fraudulent 'license-renting' schemes and authentic entrepreneurship. Genuine non-citizen spouses engaging in micro-businesses are striving to build legitimate livelihoods that contribute positively to the local economy, and their



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efforts should be facilitated with clear legal pathways rather than subjected to restrictive measures based on broad generalisations.

This structural reality is precisely why a substantial number of genuine spouses are driven into independent business ventures. It is vital that these legitimate economic survival strategies are not conflated with sham marriages. Instead of penalising families, a welfare-centric approach must be adopted to address the root causes of this issue, ensuring that the socio-economic well-being, livelihood security, and dignity of mixed-nationality households are safeguarded rather than compromised by administrative gaps.

Additionally, the statement of prohibition from employment on the LTSVP visa places immense financial strain on the entire household. This structural restriction unfairly forces many Malaysian wives into the role of sole breadwinner.

Family Frontiers calls upon the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Immigration Department to:

Remove the Statement of Prohibition of Employment: Immediately remove the statement of prohibition of employment on the LTSVP for genuine non-citizen spouses, granting them the ability to work to support their Malaysian families.

Safeguard Malaysian Binational Families: Ensure that all measures taken to combat business-related sham marriages are strictly targeted at syndicates, ensuring they do not infringe upon the privacy, family life, or well-being of legitimate Malaysian binational families.

Family Frontiers stands ready to meet with relevant ministry officials, including the Selangor State and local authorities, policymakers, and enforcement agencies to provide insights, share data, and collaborate on constructive solutions. Together, we can build a robust framework that successfully protects the rights, dignity, and socio-economic well-being of legitimate Malaysian binational families.

For Office Use:

Submitted by - Association of Family Support & Welfare Selangor & KL (Family Frontiers)

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