



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 - For Immediate Publication

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## **FAMILY FRONTIERS WELCOMES THE CABINET'S DECISION TO GRANT AUTOMATIC CITIZENSHIP TO THE OVERSEAS BORN CHILDREN OF MALAYSIAN WOMEN**

Family Frontiers welcomes the decision of the Malaysian Cabinet to amend the Federal Constitution to grant automatic Malaysian citizenship to the children born overseas to Malaysian mothers. The Cabinet has examined and agreed to table the proposed amendment to replace the word “father” in Part I and II of the Second Schedule to “at least one parent”, which would allow Malaysian mothers the right to confer citizenship on the same basis as fathers.

This move is a significant step forward in recognising the rights of Malaysian women and their overseas-born children who have faced a great deal of struggle and discrimination in the past. It is heartening to see that the government is committed to take this important step to address this long-standing issue.

We now look forward to the Consent of the Conference of Rulers and the smooth passage of the amendment in Parliament. We urge all relevant stakeholders to work together to ensure that the amendment is implemented in a timely and effective manner.

“I am encouraged by the Cabinet’s decision. It is an acknowledgement that the government recognises the struggles of Malaysian women and their overseas-born children, and that this discrimination must be rectified as quickly as possible. We are now waiting with bated breath for the amendments to be tabled in Parliament; only once the amendment passes can we breathe out in relief – because it is thereafter that the mothers will be able to submit their children’s documents to JPN in order to receive citizenship certificates. But we are certainly on the right track.” said Suriani Kempe, President of Family Frontiers.

This is an important moment for the families affected by this issue, and we hope that this amendment will bring much-needed relief and security to those who have been waiting for so long.

“As an affected mother, this is such great news and really a life line that we can hang on to. Nevertheless, I hope the government will stay committed and push it through until it becomes a reality!” said Esther, an impacted mother with a non-citizen daughter of eight years old.

Leanne, also an impacted mother, said “My 10 year old daughter has been hoping to get her MyKid since we moved back to Malaysia. There are still steps to go through to get the law amended but we are optimistic. Praise God, with this news this morning, we’re getting there!”

“This is a moment that I have been waiting for the last six years. The countless nights of hope and that hope being shattered when the Family Frontiers case got overturned in the Court of Appeals. I am praying hard that this time my children and my hopes and dreams will not be shattered. We will soon be all Malaysians!” said Ling Zhi.

Family Frontiers takes this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the Home Minister, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reforms) YB Dato' Sri Azalina, all our allies and supporters including women's groups, civil society organisations, and cross party Members of Parliament who have been speaking out for the Malaysian mothers and their children.

The Cabinet's consideration to grant Malaysian women the right to confer citizenship automatically to their overseas born children will bring a huge relief to all impacted families across the world. With this amendment, the various obstacles that the mothers and children face including family separation, obstacles to accessing long term resident status, education, healthcare, and social services will soon come to a relieving end.

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**About Family Frontiers:**

The Association of Family Support & Welfare Selangor & KL (Family Frontiers) is a registered entity established with the aim of advancing, promoting and strengthening the family unit so that no family is left behind. It acts as an umbrella body for the Foreign Spouses Support Group (FSSG), that supports and advocates for the rights of foreign spouses married to Malaysian citizens and mobilizes action for the Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship.

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