



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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Ibu Merdeka Buat Ibu Pertiwi: An evening of solidarity, public support and hope for #PindaPerkara14UntukIbu

*Apakah erti sebuah kemerdekaan
Kebebasan untuk hidup bermaruah
Tumbuh subur menyumbang kembali
Menaruh harapan, menikmati keselamatan
Hidup dalam tenang dan damai*

Apakah erti kemerdekaan bagimu?

It was an evening of patriotism, love and newfound hope as the Malaysian mothers and their overseas-born children came together at “Ibu Merdeka Buat Ibu Pertiwi”, a celebratory event to commemorate the first Merdeka Day and the Malaysia Day for children born abroad to Malaysian mothers who have finally been recognised as Malaysian citizens.

Set against the lush greenery of Taman Tugu in Kuala Lumpur, the site of Tugu Negara that commemorates the nation’s defenders, the park came alive with families dressed in vibrant traditional attire, proudly showcasing Malaysia’s beautiful cultural tapestry.

From the moment the families arrived, the air was filled with excitement and anticipation. Laughter, chatter, and the fluttering of Jalur Gemilang flags added to the festive spirit, as Family Frontiers mothers and their families, including young Malaysian allies streamed in to witness this one-of-a-kind Merdeka celebration.

The event commenced with the affected Malaysian mothers and their overseas-born children proudly singing the national anthem, “Negaraku.” It was a touching moment—voices united, filled with patriotism, echoing through the trees as mothers and their children sang with a sense of belonging and pride. For these families, it was more than just a song; it was a powerful symbol of their journey to citizenship, a chance to declare their love for Malaysia in a month that celebrates independence and unity.

The keynote speech from the Minister of Home Affairs YB Dato' Seri Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail was delivered by **Datuk Haji Makhzan bin Mahyuddin**, Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha Dasar & Kawalan from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The speech reaffirmed the Government's commitment to tabling the **Constitution Amendment Bill 2024**. The Ministry of Home affairs gave its reassurance that it is working diligently to process and issue the results of up to 17,000 applications under various citizenship provisions by **31st December 2024**.

Family Frontiers President, Adlyn Adam Teoh delivered a thank you and welcome speech to the audience, acknowledging the immense effort that was put into making this campaign a reality. "This is also a great achievement that would not have been possible without the hard work, patience, and sacrifice of the mothers here. The mothers have never given up for their children,"

The celebrations continued with the cutting of the Merdeka cake by Datuk Haji Makhzan along with the new Malaysian children at the forefront. They eagerly jumped for joy, chanting "Saya Juga Anak Malaysia" as everyone cheered them on! As the cake was cut, the joyous chants of **"Saya Juga Anak Malaysia"** filled the air, drawing cheers from all around.

The atmosphere soared even higher when the iconic tune of **"Tanggal 31 Ogos"** was played, with the children and their mothers singing every word, with pride and love for our country.

A key highlight of the event was the participation of young women activists **Sarrah Salihan** and **Ain Husniza**, who expressed their unwavering support for the #PindaPerkara14UntukIbu campaign.

"Our children deserve the right to call Malaysia home, just as much as any child born to a Malaysian father. Let's make sure that right is recognized," said Ain, urging the Malaysian government to only proceed with the mothers' amendment retroactively and to halt the remaining regressive amendments.

Sarrah echoed these sentiments, stating, "I am a woman, and I am proud to be one. I also want to be a mother and have friends who share that dream. But it is unimaginable that our children would be subjected to statelessness just because my citizenship alone, as a Malaysian woman, is not enough".

Adding an artistic touch, poet **Patricia Low**, an impacted mother herself, recited her thought-provoking and moving poem **"Erti Sebuah Kemerdekaan"** (the meaning of freedom). Her words struck a chord with the crowd, as she asked, **"Apakah erti kemerdekaan bagimu?"** (What does freedom mean to you?). It was a moment of poignant reflection amidst the celebration—a reminder of the ongoing struggle for equality and recognition of women's rights.

The children took center stage next, with an activity that allowed them to send their own messages to **Prime Minister YAB Anwar Ibrahim** via specially designed postcards. One child, with hope shining, wrote, **"Hi Mr. Anwar Ibrahim, boleh tak saya jadi rakyat Malaysia macam mama saya? Please make it happen."**

They then took part in making and flying **origami planes**, a symbol of freedom and independence, before coming together to sing **"Saya Anak Malaysia."** With every note, these young voices sent a powerful message: they are just as Malaysian as any child born on this land. Flags waved high, smiles wide—these children knew that Malaysia was their home.

Throughout the afternoon , the atmosphere was filled with laughter, love, and unity. Children waved their Jalur Gemilang with pride, while their mothers stood tall, knowing they had fought tirelessly for their children to be recognized as Malaysians. Although these mothers' struggle is not over—many continue to fight until every child of a Malaysian mother is granted citizenship—today, they celebrated a significant milestone. It was a step closer to full recognition for all overseas-born children of Malaysian mothers.

Family Frontiers and the Malaysian Mothers Network remain steadfast in their hope, in urging the government to pass the mothers' amendment retroactively and to drop the three regressive amendments. Only then can all Malaysian women and their overseas-born children truly enjoy the equality they deserve under the law. The time is now for the government to act and ensure that no Malaysian child is left behind.

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