INTERVENTION NOTES

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

AGENDA ITEM 5:
REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INCHEON STRATEGY TO "MAKE THE RIGHT REAL" FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2022
2.00 – 4.00 PM

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Government of Malaysia is committed to building an inclusive society for persons with disabilities that allow them to live fulfilling and independent lives.

2.   The Policy for Persons with Disabilities and its Plan of Action was adopted in 2007 and serves as a foundation to ensure PWDs enjoy full and effective participation in society. Following this, the Persons with Disabilities Act was enacted in 2008 and provides for the registration, protection, rehabilitation, development and wellbeing of PWDs, as well as the establishment of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities. This Act is now being reviewed by a Special Project Team which consists of academicians, medical professionals, legal professionals, as well as civil society organisations representing various disability groups and Government organizations.

3.   In Malaysia, registration of PWDs is not made compulsory under the PWDs Act. As of July 2022, a total of 614,951 PWDs have registered.

However, this figure is not reflective of the actual PWD population in Malaysia. Given this, the Government has taken the initiative to collect data on PWDs through the 2022 National Population Census to capture more accurate statistics of PWD population. This data shall be used by the government, policymakers, researchers, as well as individuals for the planning, formulation and implementation of government policies.

4. The Government provides various allocations to empower PWDs in many areas which include education, training, employment, early intervention for children with disabilities and infrastructure upgrades. In the 2022 Budget, the government has allocated USD20.5 million to enhance the creation of a barrier-free environment for PWDs.

5. To better integrate PWDs into the community, the existing Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme has been strengthened to provide early intervention, rehabilitation and training for PWDs within their own community. These centres are run through collaboration with various agencies, NGOs, community and family members. The CBR programme helps to ensure the acceptance and social integration of PWDs, including children, as well as providing them the opportunity to develop their abilities and skills to their full potential. As of May 2022, a total of 568 CBR centres have been established throughout the country benefiting 18,566 PWDs.

6. For children with disabilities, the Government has been providing yearly funding to selected NGOs that run early intervention child care centres for PWDs. These centres focus on specific categories of down syndrome, autism, visual, hearing, physical and learning disabilities. The Government shall continue to encourage and enhance smart partnerships

between government agencies and civil society organizations to reach out to the greater audience of PWDs. Such cooperation would also include skills training, rehabilitation and care services.

7.   In encouraging the employment of PWDs, several incentives are in place. A disabled worker allowance of USD100 per month is provided by the Government to encourage PWDs to work. The Government implemented the policy of 1% employment opportunity in the public service for PWDs as a key performance indicator for all Ministries. In the private sector, recruitment incentives under the Social Security Organisation has been introduced whereby employers will be given wage subsidies to hire PWDs.

8.   The Government shall continue to increase efforts in creating awareness on the rights of PWDs to the general public to lower barriers; evaluate existing legislation through open communication; and allow for independent management by NGOs, as well as more creative initiatives by all responsible parties in making the rights real for PWDs.

Thank you.