



SPEECH TEXT

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DIRECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN DEVELOPMENT**

**VISIT OF SINGAPORE DELEGATION
TO LAMAN WANITA MASJID TANAH**

**LAMAN WANITA MASJID TANAH, MELAKA
7 AUGUST 2025 (THURSDAY)
11.00 AM – 12.00 PM**

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera

Good Morning.

[SALUTASI]

LAMPIRAN SALUTASI DISEDIAKAN

INTRODUCTION

1. It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome and express our sincere appreciation to The Honourable Ms Ong Ai Hua, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), Singapore, and all delegates, for being with us on this meaningful occasion. We deeply appreciate MSF's kind gesture in visiting Laman Wanita (LaWa) in Masjid Tanah, Melaka. It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome and express our sincere appreciation to The Honourable Ms. Ong Ai Hua, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), Singapore, and all delegates for joining us on this meaningful occasion. We deeply appreciate MSF's kind gesture in visiting Laman Wanita (LaWa) in Masjid Tanah, Melaka.

2. We are gathered today in conjunction with the 1st Joint Technical Working Group between Malaysia and Singapore, held from 6th to 7th August 2025. We are gathered today in conjunction with the 1st Joint Technical Working Group between Malaysia and Singapore, held from August 6th to 7th, 2025.
3. The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (KPWKM), through the Department for Women's Development (DWD), has implemented a wide range of capacity-building programmes to empower women in key areas including economic participation, well-being, safety, and leadership. The Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development (KPWKM), through the Department for Women's Development (DWD), has implemented a wide range of capacity-building programs to

empower women in key areas, including economic participation, well-being, safety and security, and leadership.

LAMAN WANITA

4. Laman Wanita (LaWa) is one of DWD's flagship initiatives. It is a community-based activity centre offering diverse women's empowerment programmes. These include income-generating skills training, advocacy campaigns, leadership development, and a platform to promote awareness of women's issues.
5. LaWa centres are equipped with facilities such as:
 - i. **Seminar Rooms** for programmes addressing violence against women, the Sexual Harassment Act awareness, and leadership training; and

ii. **Creative Skills Spaces** provides training in food production, sewing, handicrafts, and digital marketing.

6. To date, 13 LaWa centres operate across 7 states, including two in Melaka - one in Masjid Tanah and another in Jasin.
7. In 2025, we launched "LaWa On-The-Go", a mobile initiative designed to extend our outreach beyond physical centres. This innovation enables all Malaysian states to deliver inclusive, grassroots-level empowerment programmes. As of June 2025, we have conducted 460 programmes with 6,616 participants.
8. We welcome collaboration from all stakeholders. For instance, in Melaka, we have benefited from the generous support of the Government of the Republic of Türkiye through the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA).

9. In Masjid Tanah, TIKa contributed to modernising our Sewing Workshop by providing modern sewing equipment and supporting training programmes. In Jasin, TIKa facilitated the establishment of a Digital Workshop supplying essential tools and infrastructure.
10. These partnerships have equipped local women with advanced skills and entrepreneurial opportunities, underscoring our shared commitment to sustainable, skill-based empowerment. Moving forward, the Department is keen to explore potential collaborations with MSF Singapore to further advance women's empowerment initiatives, including opportunities for participants to learn best practices and engage in knowledge-sharing sessions.

NATIONAL WOMEN POLICY

11. On a national level, the National Women Policy (NWP) and the Women Development Action Plan (WDAP) 2025–2030 were officially launched by the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia on 8 March 2025. With the theme "Empowering Women, Strengthening the Nation," the policy outlines 26 strategies, 75 programmes, and 182 initiatives across four pillars: Economy, Leadership, Security, and Well-being.
12. This policy reaffirms the Government's commitment to ensuring women's inclusion in all facets of national development. It also emphasises the critical role of partnerships between the Government, the private sector, civil society, and international partners in achieving gender equality and empowerment for women.

13. Hence, our engagement with MSF today is certainly in line with the spirit of the National Women's Policy, particularly under the Economic Pillar, and in further strengthening the bilateral ties between both nations.
14. In conclusion, we once again extend our gratitude to MSF Singapore for your presence and continued support. We strongly believe that our engagement will pave the way for deeper cooperation between our nations.
15. Together, let us transcend borders and sectors to build an inclusive, resilient, and empowered future for women everywhere.

16. We look forward to working closely with Singapore in future engagements to strengthen our shared commitment and create a meaningful impact.

Thank you.