

NEWSLETTER

Advancing Social Development
through Community Empowerment



Persons with Disabilities (PwD)



APPGM-SDG

BUILDING A TRULY INCLUSIVE MALAYSIA FOR ALL

YB Senator Isaiah D. Jacob
Member of APPGM-SDG Committee



From the Parliament to the
Ground Column

**Building a Truly
Inclusive Malaysia for
All**

03

Special Feature Column

**Elevating PDK as a
Strategic National
Agenda**

05

Voices from the Grassroots

**Every Child Can Learn:
Our Journey Towards
Inclusive Education**

07

CONTENTS

Voices from the Grassroots

**Empowering Youth
with Disabilities
through Community
Hydroponic Kitchen
Gardens**

09

Voices from the Grassroots

**Giving Time the Time It
Needs: Learning from
the Land, Growing with
Every Hand**

10

Voices from the Grassroots

**Are We Truly Ready
to Build an Inclusive
Society? The Story of
the PwD Community
in Kuala Terengganu**

11

Voices from the Grassroots

**More Than
Rehabilitation:
Lessons from
Malaysia's *Pusat
Pemulihan Dalam
Komuniti* (PDK)**

13

Event Highlights

APPGM-SDG Launches 2025 Annual
Report: Advocating a Paradigm Shift
to Multidimensional Grassroots
Solutions and District-Level
Governance

15

**A Historic Milestone: Elevating
the Social Work Profession
through the Social Work
Profession Bill 2026**

17

Event Highlights

**APPGM-SDG Strengthens
Parliamentary Ties in
High-Level Meeting with
Backbenchers Club
Chairman**

19

**Members of
Parliament on the
Ground**

20

Editorial Team:

Editor

Hirzawati Atikah Mohd Tahir

Cover & Layout Designer

Kezia Sim Kui Ting
Hirzawati Atikah Mohd Tahir

Follow Us for More Info



@APPGMSDGMY



APPGM-SDG Secretariat



@appgm_sdg



@appgmsdg



Inclusive Leadership Program for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) organised by the Ministry of Higher Education



BUILDING A TRULY INCLUSIVE MALAYSIA FOR ALL

*YB Senator Isaiah D. Jacob
(Member of APPGM-SDG Committee)*

A nation's progress is measured not only by economic growth or physical development, but also by its capacity to ensure every citizen has an equal opportunity to live with dignity, self-reliance, and to contribute to national development. In this context, the empowerment agenda for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) is not merely a welfare issue, but a national development agenda that demands comprehensive attention.

As a Senator who has long followed and advocated for social inclusion, I believe Malaysia is on a positive track in strengthening the rights and well-being of the PwD community. Various policies, programmes, and initiatives have been introduced to improve access to education, skills training, employment opportunities, and social protection. Nevertheless, we must acknowledge that there remains significant room for improvement to ensure that every policy drafted genuinely impacts the daily lives of this group.

Discussions regarding the PwD community must shift from a purely welfare-based approach to one that recognises their rights, potential, and capabilities as partners in national development. Persons with disabilities are not merely recipients of assistance. They are students, professionals, entrepreneurs, athletes, civil servants, community leaders, and value creators who can contribute significantly to society when given a fair opportunity.

One area requiring continuous attention is participation in the job market. Although a growing number of PwD job seekers have successfully secured employment in the private sector through collaboration among the government, employers, and relevant agencies, the workforce participation rate for this group has yet to reach its true potential. Many employers remain hesitant to hire PwD employees due to the perception that productivity will be compromised or that the cost of providing facilities will increase. In reality, the experiences of various organisations prove otherwise. With reasonable workplace accommodations, the use of assistive technology, and an inclusive work culture, OKU employees consistently demonstrate inspiring levels of commitment, discipline, and performance.

Therefore, more progressive employment policies must continue to be strengthened. Beyond expanding incentives for employers, monitoring the implementation of existing policies must be enhanced to ensure that created job opportunities are genuinely accessible to the PwD community. Simultaneously, efforts to upskill through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), digital skills development, and entrepreneurship must continue to be empowered so that more individuals with disabilities can compete in the future economy.





Education serves as the foundation of social mobility. Every child and youth with a disability deserves access to quality education regardless of their background or type of disability. Steps to expand access to higher education institutions, strengthen learning support systems, and provide more inclusive campus environments represent vital investments in building the nation's human capital. When educational opportunities are strengthened, more PwD graduates will enter the job market with the necessary confidence and skills.

In a digital era and an aging society, we must view PwD issues more holistically. Physical accessibility, digital access, public transport systems, long-term care, rehabilitation, mental health, and support for caregiving families are interconnected components. Every policy introduced must account for the needs of various PwD categories to ensure no group is left behind from the mainstreams of development.

I also firmly believe that good policy-making must be carried out alongside the communities that benefit from it. The principle of "Nothing About Us Without Us" must serve as the guiding anchor in every policy planning process concerning the PwD community. Active participation from PwD organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academics, the private sector, and local communities will ensure that policies formulated are more practical, inclusive, and grounded in the real lived experiences of the target group.

As a member of the Senate Select Committee on Social and Community Affairs and a member of the APPGM-SDG Committee, I view the inclusivity agenda as a shared responsibility across all sectors. Creating an inclusive society is not solely the government's task. It requires commitment from employers, educational institutions, local authorities, civil society organisations, and every member of society to eliminate stigma and create broader opportunities for the PwD community to participate.

Ultimately, let us together build a Malaysia that does not merely provide opportunities, but truly ensures that every citizen is empowered to make full use of them. When we empower the PwD community, we are actively strengthening the nation's human capital, boosting societal resilience, and accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. A truly inclusive nation leaves no one behind, because real progress can only be achieved when every citizen is given the space to grow, contribute, and succeed.



Aktiviti sukan bersama pelatih PKPDK Dun Semerah

ELEVATING PDK AS A STRATEGIC NATIONAL AGENDA

Malaysia is entering a phase where the care economy is increasingly recognised as a key driver of public well-being and national development. The government and society must strengthen quality care systems to meet the growing needs of the population resulting from increased life expectancy, a rising elderly population, and the need for support services for Persons with Disabilities (PWD).

In this context, the Community-Based Rehabilitation Programme (*Program Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti* or PDK) represents a crucial initiative within Malaysia's care economy ecosystem. Since its inception in 1984, PDK has grown as a community-based rehabilitation centre for PwDs, offering early intervention, skills development, vocational training, therapy, basic education, and support for trainees' families. This approach aligns with the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) strategy, which prioritises community participation to enhance the quality of life for PwDs. Today, there are 576 PDK centres across Malaysia benefiting 19,458 trainees, supported by 576 supervisors and 2,932 officers.

In June 2026, the APPGM-SDG, through its Parliamentary Policy Advocacy Department, launched a policy recommendation report titled "Empowerment of Community Rehabilitation Programme (PDK): Strategy to Strengthen the Care Economy and Inclusivity for Persons with Disabilities in Malaysia." One of the key recommendations put forward was to strengthen PDK through the professionalisation of social work. This effort aims to establish social work as a recognised profession by defining standards for qualifications, competencies, ethics, and professional practice.



Canva Class at PDK for High-Functioning Autism, Cyberjaya



Sports Day at PPDK Rengit, Johor

Services for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) involve not only aspects of rehabilitation and physical care, but also encompass individual needs assessment, psychosocial support, family involvement, advocacy, rights protection, and coordination with various services and agencies. The complexity of these needs requires a workforce that is not only adequate in numbers, but also possesses appropriate knowledge, skills, and professional competencies.

In line with the Social Work Profession Act 2026 recently passed in the Dewan Negara on 30th July 2026, this approval marks a significant milestone in strengthening the social service landscape in Malaysia. The creation of a legal framework for the social work profession has the potential to clarify standards of practice, competencies, ethics, and professional responsibilities in social service delivery. Currently, the act places greater focus on social workers serving in private and NGO-run care and rehabilitation centres. This is highly relevant to PwDs, as social workers often serve as the bridge between individuals, families, communities, and broader service systems.

The need for a more structured social work profession becomes increasingly important as we view PwDs not merely as aid recipients, but as individuals with equal rights to access education, employment, healthcare, and an inclusive community life. This approach also transforms how we view the role of PDKs. Presently, most PDK participants face physical and learning challenges such as slow learning, Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). PDK supervisors and staff interact closely with trainees and their families, understand their conditions and challenges, and possess years of practical experience in the rehabilitation process of their respective PDK participants. They also have the potential to serve as vital links to social, health, educational, employment, and community support services.

Therefore, strengthening PDK must be viewed not only through the lens of increasing the number of centres, facilities, and budget allocations, but also through workforce capacity building. The passage of the Social Work Profession Act 2026 opens avenues to enhance the competencies of supervisors and staff. They require access to appropriate training to provide professional supervision to participants. Additionally, this new act encourages collaborative networks with social workers and other professions, helping ensure that the support provided to PwDs is more comprehensive, continuous, and person-centred.

Strengthening the PDK Programme through the professionalisation of social work accelerates the Malaysian government's progress toward achieving SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being by enhancing the competencies of PDK supervisors, staff, and social workers. Specifically, this new act targets Target 3.c by building the capacity of the health and social workforce to ensure higher quality and continuous services for PwDs. At the same time, PDK's role as a platform for skills development, basic education, vocational training, and lifelong learning contributes to SDG 4: Quality Education—particularly Target 4.1 through inclusive basic education, Target 4.4 through technical and vocational skills development to enhance employability, and Target 4.7 by fostering values of inclusion, sustainable development, and social participation within communities.

Furthermore, the successful empowerment of PDK requires close cooperation among the Federal Government, state governments, local authorities, educational institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, and local communities. This approach aligns with SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, particularly Target 17.17, which emphasises the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in strengthening service delivery, building institutional capacity, and ensuring that every individual, including PwDs, gains access to holistic, inclusive, and sustainable support.



Trainees having breakfast at PPDK Cahaya Kasih, Subang Jaya

*By Dr. Teo Sue Ann
(Parliamentary Policy Advocacy Department)*



EVERY CHILD CAN LEARN: OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



As the founder of GAPS (*Gabungan Anak-Anak Palsi Serebrum*), my journey began with a painful realisation: children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) do not lack the ability to learn—they lack support and access to learning that is designed for them.

For years, we searched for better therapies, better equipment, and better interventions. But along the way, we discovered that the greatest investment was not only in the children, but in the people who walk alongside them every day. If we empower caregivers and educators, they, in turn, will empower every child they care for. That belief has shaped everything we do at GAPS.

When we first embarked on our APPGM-SDG journey, our focus was on CPreneur, a project that empowered youth and young adults with CP by equipping them with vocational and entrepreneurship skills for self-employment, and independent income generation. However, the project revealed an uncomfortable truth. Several participants, despite having attended special education programmes for more than 12 years, were still unable to read, spell, or perform basic numeracy.

It was a humbling moment that changed our perspective. We realised that before preparing individuals with CP for employment, we first had to ensure they had the fundamental skills to learn.

That realisation inspired CPintar—a project that went back to basics by developing adaptive literacy and numeracy modules specifically for children with CP. We invested in teachers and therapists, equipping them to design accessible lesson plans while integrating iPad accessibility features into teaching. Many also became Apple Teacher Certified, gaining internationally recognised digital teaching competencies and the confidence to create more inclusive classrooms.



Through CPro-IMPACT project, we further upskilled teachers in CP management, classroom strategies, sensory regulation, behaviour support, and other essential competencies.

These experiences reinforced one important lesson: lasting change happens when we strengthen the ecosystem around the child. Every partnership has brought new knowledge, innovation, and opportunities that ultimately benefit the children we serve.

Today, the greatest impact we celebrate is not the number of projects completed, but the transformation of our educators. Our educators are more confident, more innovative in creating affordable DIY adaptive devices that help children with CP participate more independently in daily activities and learning, and better equipped to unlock the potential of every child they teach.

Our APPGM-SDG journey has shown us that empowering persons with disabilities begins by empowering those who support them. When we invest in caregivers, we create a ripple effect that transforms classrooms, strengthens families, and opens possibilities for every child with CP to learn, participate, and thrive.



We are deeply grateful to APPGM-SDG for believing in GAPS and making it possible for us to support the CP community from the grassroots level. Through its support, we have been able to identify real challenges, develop practical solutions, and build meaningful partnerships that create lasting impact.

We hope to continue this journey together, expanding innovative programmes that empower more educators, strengthen more families, and create greater opportunities for persons with CP across Malaysia.



*By Rafidah @ Rafizah Ahmad
(APPGM-SDG Solution Provider)*

Organized by: Funded by: **YAYASAN HASANAH**
KEMENTERIAN KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA

RISE 2026

Rising Impact through Sustainable Empowerment

CENTRAL

1-2 AUGUST 2026

Organised with the support of Yayasan Hasanah and the Ministry of Finance

Supported by:

Organized by: Funded by: **YAYASAN HASANAH**
KEMENTERIAN KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA

RISE 2026

Rising Impact through Sustainable Empowerment

SABAH

22-23 AUGUST 2026

Organised with the support of Yayasan Hasanah and the Ministry of Finance

Supported by:



EMPOWERING YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY HYDROPONIC KITCHEN GARDENS



The United Nations launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 as a roadmap to achieve a balanced approach to environmental protection, social inclusion and economic growth. The SDGs consist of 17 goals to be achieved by 2030 to tackle global challenges such as poverty, inequality, food insecurity and environmental degradation. At the core of this agenda is the principle of “leaving no one behind” meaning no one should be denied the opportunity to benefit from sustainable development.



In line with these aspirations, a project entitled “Pemeriksaan Kemahiran Belia OKU Melalui Projek Kebun Dapur Hidroponik Komuniti PPDK” was undertaken with funding from the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) grant. The project was conducted at the *Pusat Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti* (PPDK) in Semenyih, Selangor, with the involvement of 15 participants consisting of young adults with disabilities (learning disability and down syndrome) and their teachers. It aimed to provide participants with practical farming skills and basic entrepreneurship training. Hydroponics farming was selected since it could be easily managed, required small spaces and suited for beginner. The project provides a practical and engaging approach for participants to learn new skills while contributing to sustainable food production.

Throughout the project, participants were learned how to prepare seeds, care for the hydroponic system, monitor plant growth, and maintain healthy vegetables. Different types of vegetables, including kangkung, pak choy, and lettuce, were cultivated during the project. As the plants developed, participants gained valuable hands-on experience and enjoyed the process of harvesting the vegetables they had grown themselves. The project also introduced basic entrepreneurship concepts by helping participants understand how their produce could be marketed and potentially used as a source of income.

One of the important lessons from this project was that every participant has different rate of learning process which require different level of support and encouragement. The experience showed that, with appropriate approaches, patience, and continuous support, persons with learning disabilities are able to learn new skills and perform tasks according to their abilities. Throughout the project, participants demonstrated enthusiasm, curiosity, and a strong willingness to participate in every activity. Beyond learning about hydroponics, the project also increased participants’ awareness of sustainable agriculture and healthy food production.

On the whole, the project has shown that given inclusive learning opportunities, appropriate support and an enabling environment, persons with disabilities do have potential. The project was a good example of how sustainable agriculture, inclusive education and community can work together to contribute to the achievement of SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 4 (Quality Education). The project also reinforced that inclusion is not just about providing access to opportunities, but about creating opportunities for people to learn, contribute, develop confidence and participate actively as productive members of society.

By Suzana Ariff Azizan
(APPGM-SDG Solution Provider)



GIVING TIME THE TIME IT NEEDS: LEARNING FROM THE LAND, GROWING WITH EVERY HAND



Over the past two years, Tani Noka has welcomed children with special needs to our farm through a series of hands-on farming experiences. We thought we were teaching them about farming, but in many ways, they were teaching us something far more valuable—how to slow down, observe, and appreciate that everyone learns differently.

Our first lesson begins even before any activity starts. A farm is a new environment, and some children may feel anxious or overwhelmed. We work closely with teachers and parents, ensuring that every five children are accompanied by a familiar teacher who helps them feel safe and confident enough to explore.

Many of our activities begin with something surprisingly simple—a small hole. Children carefully place colourful flowers into the narrow spaces of an insect hotel, transplant young seedlings into the soil, or sow one seed into each hole of a seedling tray. These small actions require patience, hand-eye coordination and concentration, but more importantly, they allow every child to discover their own rhythm.



One day, a little girl spent a long time moving ten corn seeds from one bowl to another, then back again. She smiled throughout the process. She was not trying to finish quickly; she was enjoying learning in her own way. At that moment, we realised that learning is not always measured by completing a task. Sometimes, learning happens through repetition, confidence and the freedom to explore.

We have also learned never to force participation. If a child is not ready to touch the soil, we simply invite them to observe. Very often, after watching others, they choose to join on their own. When children begin holding our hands, showing us flowers, or excitedly bringing us to watch bees gathering pollen on flowering corn, we know that trust has quietly taken root.



Perhaps the happiest moments come during the corn harvest. Picking fresh corn, peeling back the husk and tasting its natural sweetness often brings bright smiles that need no words. These moments remind us that farming is not only about growing food—it is about nurturing confidence, curiosity and human connection.

These experiences have inspired Tani Noka to explore the establishment of an inclusive training farm for neurodivergent youth in Malaysia. More importantly, they have strengthened our belief that true inclusion begins with patience, respect and giving every individual the time they need to grow.

After all, the greatest lesson the land has taught us is simple:

**Give time the time it needs.
Learn how to learn.**

*By Ooi Xin Er
(APPGM-SDG Solution Provider)*



ARE WE TRULY READY TO BUILD AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY? THE STORY OF THE PWD COMMUNITY IN KUALA TERENGGANU



Can a city truly be considered developed if a segment of its population still struggles to access opportunities, understand information, and move freely within public spaces? This question reflects the reality experienced by the persons with disabilities (PWD) community in the Kuala Terengganu parliamentary constituency. Despite urban development and improvements in public facilities, the experiences of the PWD community demonstrate that greater attention must be given to inclusivity, particularly in ensuring that they are not merely present as users of public services, but are recognised as active and independent members of society.



For the Deaf community, the challenges extend beyond hearing impairment to the extent to which society understands their needs and provides equal opportunities for participation. Participants shared their experience of attending a programme at a stadium where sign language interpreters were provided to enable Deaf participants to follow the speakers' presentations. Although this initiative represented a positive step towards accessibility, there were occasions when members of the public walked across the area where the interpreters were signing, obstructing the line of sight of Deaf participants. While this may appear insignificant to some, for the Deaf community it can result in the loss of a substantial amount of important information being communicated.

This situation demonstrates that providing accessible facilities alone is not sufficient. Genuine inclusion requires a broader shift in public awareness and understanding of the needs of persons with disabilities. According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), the number of registered persons with disabilities in Malaysia has exceeded 700,000, highlighting that this group constitutes a significant part of the nation's population. Nevertheless, their participation across various sectors, particularly in employment, continues to face numerous barriers.

Within the context of Kuala Terengganu, employment opportunities emerged as one of the key concerns raised by the Deaf community. Participants explained that many Deaf individuals possess the skills and capabilities required for employment but continue to face difficulties in securing jobs due to communication barriers and the perception among some employers that hiring persons with disabilities presents additional challenges. As a result of these limited employment opportunities, many choose self-employment by operating small businesses or engaging in skill-based occupations such as tailoring, which require less verbal communication.



These challenges were also linked to the implementation of Malaysia's policy to reserve 1% of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Participants expressed the view that the policy has yet to achieve its intended objectives because its implementation relies largely on encouragement rather than mandatory compliance. To ensure fairer employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, participants recommended strengthening the policy so that organisations become more committed to creating employment opportunities based on individuals' abilities rather than focusing on their disabilities.

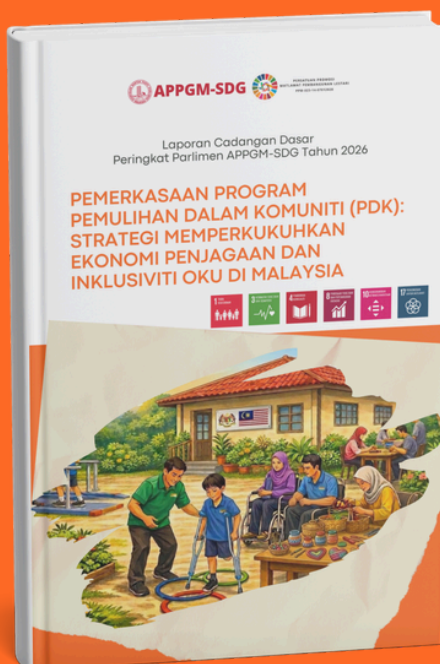


The experiences of the PWD community in Kuala Terengganu demonstrate that employment is not merely a question of whether opportunities exist, but also whether existing systems enable persons with disabilities to access those opportunities. Empowering persons with disabilities requires a more comprehensive approach through skills development, support for economic initiatives, and the creation of more inclusive workplaces. When opportunities are provided based on ability and potential, persons with disabilities should no longer be viewed solely as recipients of assistance, but as individuals capable of making meaningful contributions to the economic and social development of Kuala Terengganu.

Beyond employment, the surrounding environment also plays a significant role in determining whether persons with disabilities are able to participate in the labour market. Accessible public transportation, access to information, and disability-friendly infrastructure are essential to enabling them to move independently and participate fully in society. If these basic forms of accessibility remain inadequate, employment opportunities that are available may still remain beyond their reach. For example, difficulties in accessing job advertisements or employment information in formats that are accessible to the Deaf community may cause them to miss opportunities that would otherwise have been available.



By Nur Syadhira Mohd Razali
(Constituency Coordination Department)



"Pemeriksaan Program Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti (PDK): Strategi Memperkukuhkan Ekonomi Penjagaan dan Inklusiviti OKU di Malaysia" (Empowerment of Community Rehabilitation Program (PDK) — Strategy to Strengthen the Care Economy and Inclusivity for Persons with Disabilities in Malaysia) was drawn from APPGM-SDG's issue mapping and a subsequent survey of 100 PDKs nationwide. The report provides an in-depth assessment of challenges facing PDKs. It argues for professional training for PDK operators to better serve trainees with special needs and for more sustainable government support mechanisms to ensure PDKs can continue providing community services.

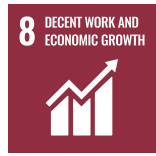
**READ THE
REPORT NOW**



**The report is in Malay language.*



MORE THAN REHABILITATION: LESSONS FROM MALAYSIA'S PUSAT PEMULIHAN DALAM KOMUNITI (PDK)



For many Malaysians, *Pusat Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti* (PDK) only becomes familiar when disability touches their own family. Even then, PDKs are often seen simply as community rehabilitation centres. In reality, they are much more. They sit at the intersection of rehabilitation, education, caregiving, social participation, and community development.

This became clear to me through the PDK Study, led by the Parliamentary Policy Advocacy Department (PPAD) and the Policy Solutions Department (PSD). The study engaged approximately 538 of Malaysia's 580 registered PDKs, making it one of the country's most comprehensive efforts to understand the community rehabilitation ecosystem.

Although I was not originally assigned to conduct field visits, I volunteered to interview supervisors at seven PDKs across Rompin and the Central Region between December 2025 to January 2026. I expected to learn about operations, funding, staffing shortages, and the challenges of running these centres. Those issues were certainly present, but they were not what stayed with me.

What left the greatest impression were the people behind the work. Across every PDK, supervisors spoke less about targets and more about their trainees. They celebrated milestones that others might consider small, a child communicating more confidently or someone travelling independently for the first time. These were achievements measured not by statistics, but by dignity and independence.

The visits also challenged my assumption that every PDK follows the same model. One centre supporting individuals with high-functioning autism adopted the IGCSE curriculum instead of KSSR, alongside a strong focus on independent living and vocational readiness. It reminded me that disability is not homogeneous, and community rehabilitation should not be either. Effective PDKs respond to the needs of the communities they serve.



As the parent of a son on the autism spectrum, these conversations resonated with me not only as a researcher but also as a parent. Like many families, we hope our children are understood before they are judged, supported before they are excluded, and recognised for their abilities rather than defined by their limitations.



However, stronger support is still needed. Beyond sustained funding and better inter-agency collaboration, many PDKs also produce high-quality products through the talents of persons with disabilities. Stronger social procurement policies among government agencies, GLCs, GLICs, and the corporate sector under the ESG agenda can provide sustainable income while recognising these capabilities. This aligns closely with the aspirations of the Thirteenth Malaysia Plan to strengthen the third sector and build a more inclusive and sustainable economy.

PDKs are not merely centres for rehabilitation. They are places where communities demonstrate what inclusion looks like in practice. The question is no longer how many PDKs Malaysia has, but whether we are giving them the support they need to continue transforming lives.



*By Dr. Wan Asiah Nurjannah Wan Ahmad Tajuddin
(Policy Solutions Department)*

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES



APPGM-SDG



KEMENTERIAN KEWANGAN MALAYSIA



YAYASAN HASANAH
a foundation of Hasanah Nusantara

MPI & Pembangunan Negara

Sesi wacana ilmu Indeks Kemiskinan Multidimensi (MPI) negara dan perkongsian inisiatif MPI APPGM-SDG melalui kajian MPI melibatkan 2,775 isi rumah seluruh negara dengan 5 dimensi dan 27 indikator.

Program dianjurkan oleh Inisiatif Intervensi Dasar, usahasama APPGM-SDG, Yayasan Hasanah & Kementerian Kewangan.



Dr. Usha Kanagaratnam



Dr. Wan Asiah Nurjannah



Prof Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria

Malaysia's Reassessed Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): Perkongsian keputusan indikator MPI Negara. (English session)

Dapatkan awal kajian MPI oleh APPGM-SDG bersama 2,775 isi rumah melalui inisiatif intervensi Dasar.

MPI & Pembangunan Negara: Hubungan efektif dasar ke akar umbi & hala tuju.

Pendaftaran



4 Ogos 2026
2.30 - 5.00pm

Ruang Komuniti
MySDG PJ & Hybrid

tinyurl.com/ilmumpi1

PROGRAM HYBRID

www.appgm-sdg.com





**UNIVERSITI
MALAYA**



SESI PERKONGSIAN

PEMETAAN ISU KAWASAN PARLIMEN TERPILIH BAGI TAHUN 2026

APPGM-SDG


11 OGOS 2026
 (SELASA)


**9.30 PAGI -
5.30 PETANG**


**SIDANG KARYAWAN,
UNIVERSITI MALAYA**

AJARAN:
APPGM-SDG

DENGAN KERJASAMA:
FAKULTI ILAKH BINA, UNIVERSITI MALAYA

MENGENAI PROGRAM	TENTATIF PROGRAM																				
Program ini mengagunkan inisiatif strategik, adalah penyertaan Karyawan Parlimen, APPGM-SDG sebagai platform pengalihan bagi memuatkan hasil kajian dan analisis pemetaan isu serta tindakan lanjut ke arah penyempurnaan SDG di dalam kawasan Parlimen terpilih bagi tahun 2026, iaitu Puchong, Pandamaran, Kuala Temenggorang dan Kota Melaka. Sesi ini akan memperkukuhkan barisan pakar dari akademik bagi memberi panduan terperinci, memperkembangkan wawasan sekitar pembangunan dan laporan tahunan nasional Sisa Analisa Kitarabaru di peringkat kesatuan kesukan sedari dasar.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">WAKTA</th> <th style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">KEGIATAN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9.30 pagi</td> <td>Pembukaan & Muzam Pagi</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10.00 pagi</td> <td>Utusan Aliran & Pembinaan</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10.30 pagi</td> <td>Pengalaman Model Metodologi Penyelidikan APPGM-SDG</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11.00 pagi</td> <td>SESI 1 Pertemuan Hujung Haid Deputian Menteri Besar, Rafiq Puchong & Phinlaya</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12.00 tengah hari</td> <td>Kahwin Teguh Rani, Rafiq & Sitor Zukhor</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2.00 petang</td> <td>SESI 2 Pertemuan Hujung Haid Deputian Menteri Besar, Rafiq Puchong & Kota Melaka</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3.30 petang</td> <td>Sesi Peranan Bersepadu Strategik Pembangunan Ibu Pejabat Kemajuan Komuniti</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5.00 petang</td> <td>Sesi Peranan Bersepadu Strategik Pembangunan, Sesi Pengiraan & Penilaian</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5.15 petang</td> <td>Muzam Petang & Bersurai</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	WAKTA	KEGIATAN	9.30 pagi	Pembukaan & Muzam Pagi	10.00 pagi	Utusan Aliran & Pembinaan	10.30 pagi	Pengalaman Model Metodologi Penyelidikan APPGM-SDG	11.00 pagi	SESI 1 Pertemuan Hujung Haid Deputian Menteri Besar, Rafiq Puchong & Phinlaya	12.00 tengah hari	Kahwin Teguh Rani, Rafiq & Sitor Zukhor	2.00 petang	SESI 2 Pertemuan Hujung Haid Deputian Menteri Besar, Rafiq Puchong & Kota Melaka	3.30 petang	Sesi Peranan Bersepadu Strategik Pembangunan Ibu Pejabat Kemajuan Komuniti	5.00 petang	Sesi Peranan Bersepadu Strategik Pembangunan, Sesi Pengiraan & Penilaian	5.15 petang	Muzam Petang & Bersurai
	WAKTA	KEGIATAN																			
	9.30 pagi	Pembukaan & Muzam Pagi																			
	10.00 pagi	Utusan Aliran & Pembinaan																			
	10.30 pagi	Pengalaman Model Metodologi Penyelidikan APPGM-SDG																			
11.00 pagi	SESI 1 Pertemuan Hujung Haid Deputian Menteri Besar, Rafiq Puchong & Phinlaya																				
12.00 tengah hari	Kahwin Teguh Rani, Rafiq & Sitor Zukhor																				
2.00 petang	SESI 2 Pertemuan Hujung Haid Deputian Menteri Besar, Rafiq Puchong & Kota Melaka																				
3.30 petang	Sesi Peranan Bersepadu Strategik Pembangunan Ibu Pejabat Kemajuan Komuniti																				
5.00 petang	Sesi Peranan Bersepadu Strategik Pembangunan, Sesi Pengiraan & Penilaian																				
5.15 petang	Muzam Petang & Bersurai																				

IMBAS UNTUK PENYATAKAN!

Sila imbas QR atau klik pautan di bawah untuk pendaftaran:

<https://forms.gle/Cj8wULz9dR9gVqy4v>

"Berjasa memperkukuhkan perantaraan kerangka kemudi akan suntai ke arah menyempurnakan pembangunan komuniti pada tempoh 2026"

- Yang Terhormat Menteri Kanan Parlimen

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



9 JULY 2026



APPGM-SDG LAUNCHES 2025 ANNUAL REPORT: ADVOCATING A PARADIGM SHIFT TO MULTIDIMENSIONAL GRASSROOTS SOLUTIONS AND DISTRICT-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

APPGM-SDG launched its 2025 Annual Report at the Parliament of Malaysia. Formally officiated by YB Dato' Indera Mohd Shahr Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Economy, the report shows the institution's bipartisan milestones, structural frameworks, and quantitative grassroots evidence aimed at bridging national policymaking with targeted local development.

Moving beyond traditional aggregate reporting, the APPGM-SDG is utilising this launch to demand urgent federal and state policy interventions across five structural dimensions that continue to marginalise local communities.

A Major Governance Breakthrough: District & Divisional SDG Committees

The prominent breakthrough highlighted in the 2025 report is the institutionalisation of Sustainable Development Goals at the local administrative tier. While major local authorities have made progress via Voluntary Local Reports, district administrations have traditionally been left out.

APPGM-SDG has successfully bridged this gap by engaging State Governments to establish 53 dedicated District & Divisional SDG Committees, integrated directly into existing district frameworks and chaired by District Officers or Residents (in Sarawak). Supported by the Ministry of Finance and Yayasan Hasanah, this milestone demonstrates that the district level holds the highest potential for localised public service delivery. APPGM-SDG strongly calls on the Federal Government to institutionalise this model nationwide to accelerate the 2030 Agenda.



There are also additional urgent findings & policy recommendations that APPGM-SDG demanded which include:

- Specific recommendations to expand the indicators to capture the nature and conditions of poverty more effectively and the need for the Federal Government to shift its poverty measurement from income to Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as well as use a multidimensional approach in addressing family and local community concerns in its delivery check list;
- Support to Community-Based Rehabilitation Centres (PDK centres) as there is a need to review the annual allocation to these centres which require professional staff support and upgraded facilities and APPGM-SDG calls on the Federal Government to review the resources needed particularly professional support for disability work and the funding that is needed;
- The need for development assistance to small island dwellers as APPGM-SDG calls on the Federal Government to direct specific attention

and focus to small island dwellers in development planning as a specific target group who are being left behind and improved quality of life and social wellbeing must be captured through disaggregated data via DOSM.

- There is a need for more capacity building programmes at the grassroots level specifically for frontline government servants at the district level. As the SDGs are cross-cutting in nature impacting economic, social, environmental and governance concerns, inter-agency collaboration needs to be strengthened through improved local modalities for work and we demand the Federal Government to introduced new training opportunities for officers working as frontline officers, as well as to work with State Governments for a better orientation towards Federal policies and programmes.



Speaking at the launch, YB Puan Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis @ Fakharudy, Chairperson of the APPGM-SDG Committee, emphasised: *"What sets the APPGM-SDG apart is our approach of listening before acting. Through local issue mapping, we identify the real challenges faced by communities. From these findings, we develop micro-projects, strengthen community capacity, formulate policy recommendations, and bring the voice of the people directly to Parliament and policymakers. This is what we truly mean by localising the Sustainable Development Goals."*

YB Dato' Indera Mohd Shahar Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Economy, in his opening officiating address, echoed this sentiment, stating, *"Therefore, the localisation approach pioneered by the APPGM-SDG aligns perfectly with the Government's aspirations, provided these efforts successfully translate national policies into actions that directly benefit the people in a continuous and sustainable manner. This approach serves not only as a bridge between Government policies and the needs of local communities, but also helps to identify challenges at the local level, encourages context-specific solutions for each area, and enriches the nation's policymaking process through direct implementation experiences on the ground."*

The launch event brought together prominent guests, international representatives, and top policymakers, including: YB Dato' Indera Mohd Shahar Abdullah (Deputy Minister of Economy), Dato' Ts. V. Valluvan Veloo, (Deputy Secretary General (Macro) Ministry of Economy), Mr. Asfaazam Kasbani (Director of National SDG Centre, Ministry of Economy), Mr. Nikolas Myint (United Nations Resident Coordinator Designate), and Ms. Raja Nor Dianna Raja Harun (Head of Partnerships, Yayasan Hasanah). Alongside numerous Members of Parliament (YBs), civil societies, and agencies.

*By Hirzawati Atikah Mohd Tahir
(Corporate Communication Unit)*





14 JULY 2026



A HISTORIC MILESTONE: ELEVATING THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION THROUGH THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION BILL 2026

KOTA BELUD (WARISAN)

The recent passage of the Social Work Profession Bill 2026 by the Dewan Rakyat marks a historic milestone for Malaysia's social protection and social service ecosystem. After decades of anticipation by practitioners, academics, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), this legislation finally transforms social work in Malaysia from being regarded merely as "voluntary service" into a legally recognised and accredited profession.

As Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG), I view this legislative achievement through the lens of sustainable development—particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). A strong and professional social protection system is a fundamental pillar in building an inclusive and sustainable nation. I extend my highest congratulations and appreciation to YB Dato' Sri Nancy Shukri, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, for her steadfast commitment in bringing this Bill before Parliament.



The Reality on the Ground: A Welfare Crisis and Excessive Workload

The passage of this Bill comes at a particularly critical time. Based on official records from the Department of Social Welfare (JKM), which are consistent with APPGM-SDG's grassroots monitoring, Malaysia's growing social challenges require integrated structural interventions. In 2020, JKMR recorded 663,628 cases. By 2025, this figure had risen sharply by 52.7% to 1,013,466 cases. Even more concerning, the Malaysian Family Well-being Index Study conducted by the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN) found that 40.2% of families identified social problems as one of the major challenges affecting their daily lives.

Despite this surge in cases, the country's social service workforce remains critically overstretched. With Malaysia's population reaching 34.4 million, there are only approximately 3,480 established positions under JKMR's Community Development Service Scheme—equivalent to one social worker for every 9,885 residents. This compares with a ratio of 1:490 in the United Kingdom and 1:3,448 in Singapore. How can a social worker be expected to deliver high-quality interventions when responsible for the welfare of nearly 10,000 people?

The situation is even more severe in rural and remote areas such as Sabah and Sarawak, where JKMR often serves as the community's only source of formal social support. In Kota Belud, for example, of the district JKMR's nine staff members, two are drivers and one is employed under the MySTEP programme,



leaving only six permanent officers to manage welfare assistance, child protection, elderly care, and disaster response throughout the entire district. Such conditions have contributed to severe burnout among our frontline social service professionals.

Impact and Sectoral Transformation: Elevating the Social Work Profession

The implications of the Social Work Profession Bill 2026 for the profession and its practitioners are profound and transformative. Among the Act's key contributions are:

1. **Professional Recognition and Qualification Standards:** The Act establishes the Malaysian Social Work Profession Council to regulate professional practice, register practitioners through Practising Certificates, and determine competency standards and codes of ethics. This ensures that professionally trained social work graduates receive the recognition and professional standing they deserve.
2. **Strengthening the Care Economy:** The Act extends beyond a moral commitment; it represents a strategic national investment in developing a mature and sustainable care economy. A professional support system of this nature directly protects vulnerable groups, including single mothers, persons with disabilities, older persons, and disadvantaged children.
3. **A Whole-of-Nation Approach:** The inclusion of NGO and private sector representatives in the Council (under Clause 3) ensures that grassroots practitioners have a voice in shaping the profession, thereby narrowing the gap between government policy and realities on the ground.

APPGM-SDG's Recommendations: Clear Boundaries, Accountability, and Strengthening the Public Sector

While APPGM-SDG fully supports the passage of the Bill, we have submitted several recommendations to the Ministry to strengthen its implementation through the accompanying regulations:



- **Clear Professional Boundaries (Clauses 31 & 32):** As Clauses 31 and 32 impose significant penalties for practising without registration, the Ministry should establish clear distinctions between registered professional practitioners, community volunteers, NGO activists, and staff serving in Members of Parliament's service centres. The goodwill of civil society in assisting communities should not be discouraged by uncertainty over legal and administrative requirements.
- **Equal Standards Across the Public and Private Sectors (Clause 19(8)):** The exemption allowing public officers to perform official duties without holding a practising certificate warrants further review. APPGM-SDG's findings indicate that social workers in the public sector, particularly within JKM, should also be subject to the highest standards of training, professional competency, and accountability. The Government must lead by example and avoid creating a two-tier system between the public sector and private or NGO practitioners.
- **Recognition of Volunteers and Expansion of Public Sector Workforce:** We urge the Public Service Department (JPA) and the Ministry of Finance to review and increase permanent JKM positions, particularly in high-risk areas. At the same time, JKM volunteers (Briged Kebajikan), who have worked tirelessly during times of crisis, should receive a dedicated duty allowance based on hours or days served—similar to the allowance models used by RELA and the Malaysian Civil Defence Force (APM)—as formal recognition of their invaluable contribution.

Conclusion

The Social Work Profession Act 2026 is no longer simply a policy option—it is a structural necessity for the nation. The escalation of social welfare cases to more than one million serves as a clear warning that traditional approaches are no longer sufficient to address today's increasingly complex social challenges. Let us work together to ensure the successful implementation of this Act in order to build a Malaysia that is more just, equitable, and compassionate for all its people.

By YB Puan Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis@Fakharudy
(Chairperson of APPGM-SDG Committee;
Member of Parliament for Kota Belud)



Watch the parliamentary debates:

- YB Dato' Sri Nancy Shukri: 1:29:30 – 1:48:20
- YB Puan Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis @ Fakharudy: 3:20:10 – 3:28:20



10

15 JULY 2026



APPGM-SDG STRENGTHENS PARLIAMENTARY TIES IN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WITH BACKBENCHERS CLUB CHAIRMAN

In a continued effort to embed sustainable development into the heart of national policy, the APPGM-SDG Secretariat and leadership team met with the Chairman of the Parliament Backbenchers Club (BBC), YB Datuk Seri Dr. Zaliha Mustafa (Member of Parliament for Sekijang).

The engagement provided a strategic platform to introduce the vision, core mission, and ongoing ground-level initiatives of APPGM-SDG. During the session, delegates discussed actionable avenues to deepen collaboration with Members of Parliament, ensuring local sustainability challenges translate effectively into parliamentary advocacy and policy action.



The fruitful discussion was also attended by key parliamentary leaders, including:

- YB Puan Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis@Fakharudy (Chairperson of APPGM-SDG Committee; Member of Parliament for Kota Belud)
- YB Puan Hajah Rodziah Ismail (Member of APPGM-SDG Committee; Member of Parliament for Ampang)
- YB Tuan Haji Jamaludin Yahya (Member of Parliament for Pasir Salak)
- YB Datuk Matbali Musah (Member of Parliament for Sipitang)

By strengthening bridges with parliamentary leadership, APPGM-SDG reinforces its commitment to cross-party cooperation, bridging local community needs with national legislative processes to ensure no one is left behind in Malaysia's SDG agenda.



GET YOUR STORIES FEATURED



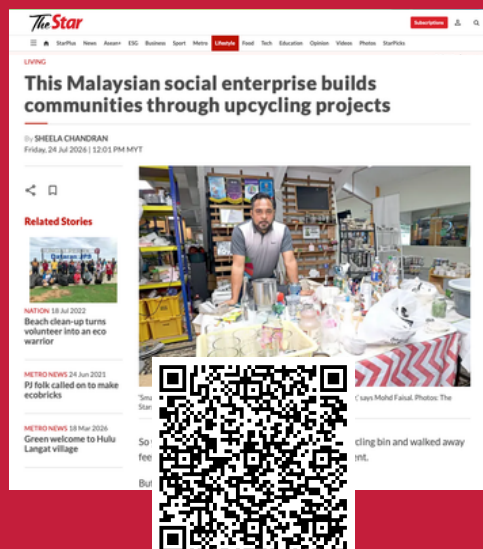
Want us to feature your ground stories? Submit your stories now for a chance to be featured in our next issue!





We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Members of Parliament for their unwavering cooperation and commitment. Throughout the month, APPGM-SDG has had the privilege of engaging with various parliamentary constituencies through various meeting and events. These milestones were made possible through the dedicated efforts between the Members of Parliament and APPGM-SDG. We value this synergy between policy and grassroots action, and we look forward to further strengthening our partnership to advance the Sustainable Development Goals across Malaysia.

SOLUTION PROVIDERS IN THE NEWS





APPGM-SDG



**Persatuan Promosi Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari
(PPM-023-14-07012020)**

 A-1-10, Blok A, Pusat Perniagaan Seksyen 8, Jalan Sg. Jernih 8/1,
46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

 secretariat@appgm-sdg.com

 <https://www.facebook.com/APPGMSDGMY>

 <https://appgm-sdg.com/>