



SPEECH TEXT

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MINISTER OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**LAUNCH OF THE 28th ANNUAL CHARITY
WALK-JOG-WHEEL-A-THON**

**DEWAN TEONG KIM CHAI,
PETALING JAYA, SELANGOR
15 AUGUST 2023 (TUESDAY) / 10.30AM**

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

And a very good morning to everyone

(SALUTATIONS)

SALUTATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED

1. Firstly, I would like to thank the organisers for inviting me to witness the remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication of the Spastic Children's Association of Selangor and Federal Territory (SCAS&FT).
2. It is with great privilege that I join you to celebrate their 63 years of relentless commitment to advocating for the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities, particularly within the spastic community and among children.

3. Today, we gather not only to acknowledge their remarkable journey but also to collectively embrace the spirit of inclusivity, unity, and empowerment that they exemplify through their Annual Charity Walk Jog Wheel-A-Thon.

4. For over six decades, SCAS&FT has been a beacon of hope and change, tirelessly championing the rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities, especially the spastics community and children. Under the distinguished Royal patronage of His Royal Highness, Sultan of Selangor, the association has been

at the forefront of transforming lives through its vision and mission of enhancing the quality of life for children with cerebral palsy, providing them with education and rehabilitation programs that instil confidence, skills, and independence.

Ladies and gentlemen

5. The Annual Charity Walk Jog Wheel-A-Thon is a testament to the unwavering commitment of SCAS&FT. For the past 27 years, this event has brought together people from all walks of life, creating a platform where the able-bodied and those with disabilities run side by side, dismantling barriers and fostering a sense of unity.

6. This year's 28th edition, scheduled to take place at Dataran Merdeka in November, promises to be the largest yet, with an anticipated participation of 5,000 individuals, including 200 persons with disabilities.

7. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated members of the organizing committee who, year after year, work tirelessly to make this event a success. While this year marks the 28th edition, let us remember that this would have been the 30th had it not been for the global pandemic. The last edition, held this January after a two-year hiatus, attracted 1,580 participants, of which 200 were persons with disabilities.

8. At the Ministry of Women, Family & Community Development, we are steadfast in promoting inclusivity and ensuring the wellbeing of persons with disabilities across our nation. This event reflects our commitment to these ideals. Today, we eagerly anticipate an even larger crowd, embracing the spirit of unity and empowerment that the event embodies.

9. It's worth noting that this charity run is not merely a run; it's a symbol of awareness, support, and empowerment. By partnering with around 30 NGOs, SCAS&FT fosters a united effort toward a noble goal, offering a platform for others to

fundraise and sustain their organizations, embodying inclusivity and unity.

10. Our disabled citizens have proven time and again their remarkable capabilities and potential. Be it in sports, social endeavours, economic contributions, as well as academic excellence, they have consistently defied expectations. Now, more than ever, we must rally as Malaysians, regardless of our differences, to stand with organizations like SCAS&FT that tirelessly work to uplift the lives of persons with disabilities, enhancing their quality of life through various avenues.

11. I call upon corporations, businesses, organizations, individuals, and every Malaysian to come forward and support this noble cause. Your contributions, whether through sponsorship, funding, or any means under your Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, will undoubtedly make a significant impact. As we work together to make this year's run a resounding success, let us remember that by supporting this initiative, we are fostering an environment of inclusivity and breaking down barriers for persons with disabilities.

12. Your support goes beyond money – it spreads awareness and changes how society sees disabilities. When you stand with people with disabilities, you show unity and strength. By sponsoring and joining in, you help SCAS&FT and others keep doing important work that improves the lives of disabled individuals, fostering rehabilitation, learning and growth.

13. In conclusion, let us all embrace the spirit of unity, equality, and empowerment that the Annual Charity Walk Jog Wheel-A-Thon represents. Let us be the catalysts for change, breaking

down societal barriers, and showing the world that a united Malaysia stands strong for inclusivity and social integration.

Thank you, and let us work hand in hand for a brighter, more inclusive future for all Malaysians.