



SPEECH TEXT

**YB DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY BINTI SHUKRI
MINISTER OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

PROGRAM

**LAUNCHING OF “THE FOUNDLING”
AND DUTA YAYASAN CHOW KIT PROGRAM**

LOCATION / DATE / TIME

**YAYASAN CHOW KIT, NO.19 JALAN BELIA
15 JULY 2025 (TUESDAY)
9.00 AM**

Updated 14 July 2025

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

(SALUTASI)

SALUTATIONS TO BE ATTACHED

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

1. Praise and thanks be to Allah SWT. With His grace and blessings, we are gathered here this morning for the launch of the book “***The Foundling***” and the **Chow Kit Foundation Ambassador Program**.
2. I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to Yayasan Chow Kit for inviting me to officiate this meaningful occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS AND APPRECIATION

3. First of all, I want to congratulate Yayasan Chow Kit for this inspiring initiative. For over a decade, your organization has been a safe haven for vulnerable children. Publishing this book is not only a way to document their real stories, but also a way to give a voice to those who are too often unheard.

4. My appreciation also goes to **Yayasan Sime Darby** for fulfilling its corporate social responsibility by partnering with Yayasan Chow Kit. The Ministry fully supports Yayasan Sime Darby's efforts to help children in need through education and advocacy.
5. In today's challenging times, the welfare of vulnerable children is no longer a side issue. It calls for collective action by the government, civil society, the private sector, and the public.

6. I believe that with continuous collaboration, and guided by the **“Whole of Government and Whole of Nation”** approach, we can build a more inclusive and caring society where no child is left behind.

THE BOOK “THE FOUNDLING”

7. “The Foundling” is not just a book — it is a **manifestation of love, courage, and hope**. It brings readers into the world of children growing up under challenging circumstances, yet who never gave up hope. The book reminds us that **every child, regardless of background, deserves to be seen, heard, and protected**.

8. Congratulations once again to **Datuk Dr. Hartini** for the publication of this book, and also to the ambassadors appointed to represent Yayasan Chow Kit.

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CRC)

9. The initiative to write this book aligns with the **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**, which Malaysia signed in 1995.

10. Right now, the Ministry, together with stakeholders and departments at the Federal level, and the state governments of Sabah and Sarawak, as well as the **Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC)**, **UNICEF**, and **UNCHR**, is finalizing responses to 20 key questions (List of Issues) arising from Malaysia's **2nd to 4th Periodic Reports**.

11. The Government's response will highlight our progress and commitments to uphold children's rights. Efforts like those by Yayasan Chow Kit and Yayasan Sime Darby serve as excellent examples that will support this report.
12. Through the Social Welfare Department, our Ministry enforces the Child Act 2001 and the CRC to protect the safety and wellbeing of children in Malaysia.

CHILD DEVELOP INITIATIVES

13. Our Ministry consistently puts children's welfare at the heart of our work. Last year alone, more than 128,000 children in 337 schools took part in the KASIH Kanak-kanak advocacy program, which helps raise awareness about child protection.

14. This program will continue this year and beyond. I encourage everyone here to play a part in making it a success, so together we can build safer spaces for our children.
15. I am also pleased to share that, on 16 October 2024, in conjunction with World Children's Day, we launched the new National Child Policy.
16. This policy is built on four core principles: protection, survival, development, and participation. It also emphasizes holistic development—physical, emotional, mental, and

spiritual—and ensures children can meaningfully participate in decisions that affect their lives. In other words, it makes sure their voices are heard.

17. I urge all NGOs, community organizations, and the private sector to work with us to put this policy into action for the good of every child.

CHILDREN AND CITIZENSHIP

18. As I mentioned earlier, children's rights remain a key priority for our Ministry. One important legal reform under the MADANI Government is the amendment concerning citizenship for children born overseas to Malaysian mothers and non-citizen fathers.
19. This amendment will give equal rights to these children to obtain citizenship by operation of law if their mother was a Malaysian citizen at the time of their birth—not just the father.

CLOSING

20. At the Ministry, we keep an open-door policy to strengthen collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society to improve our child protection system. With a united and integrated approach, we can better protect the welfare and future of all our children.

21. I also want to remind everyone that the Ministry operates Talian Kasih 15999, a 24-hour hotline for any child or individual who needs help or wants to report concerns about children's safety.
22. In closing, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the launch of "*The Foundling*" and the Chow Kit Foundation Ambassador Program. Your dedication is an inspiration to us all.

With the words **Bismillahirrahmanirrahim**, I hereby declare the book “*The Foundling*” and the Chow Kit Foundation Ambassador Program officially launched. Thank you.

Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

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Minister of Women, Family & Community Development
15 July 2025