



**OPENING SPEECH**

**BY**

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MINISTER OF WOMEN,  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**FOR**

**2ND CBR WORLD CONGRESS 2016**

**27 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**BERJAYA TIMES SQUARE,  
KUALA LUMPUR**

## **SALUTATION (to be updated)**

YB Datuk Hajah Azizah Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohd Dun  
Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat

Y.B. Senator Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun  
Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat

Mr Venkatesh Balakrishnan  
President of CBR Global Network

Prof Maria Alarcos Cieza  
Coordinator  
Disability and Rehabilitation  
World Health Organization

Puan Noor Yasmin Abdul Karim  
Presiden of CBR Network Malaysia

YBhg. Datin Paduka Khatijah Sulieman  
Presiden of Malaysian Council For Rehabilitation

Distinguished guests

CBR delegates

Members of Media

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

Bismillahir Rahman Nirrahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Salam 1Malaysia and a very good morning to all of you.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. First of all, all praises be to the Almighty, by whose Grace and Blessings, we are gathered here today at the opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CBR World Congress 2016. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here witnessing the vibrant faces of the conference participants among practitioners and leaders in the community-based rehabilitation or CBR movement, which I dare say, is evidence that the congress is going to achieve its objectives, Insya Allah.
2. It also gives me great pleasure to extend a warm and cordial 'Selamat Datang' to each and every one of you this morning. It is a great pleasure for the Malaysian Government to co-host this congress together with CBR Network Malaysia and the Malaysian Council for Rehabilitation, as it demonstrates a synergistic strategic partnership between the government and civil society for the best interest of persons with disabilities.
3. I wish to thank the organising committee of the congress in giving me the privilege and honour of addressing you and entrusting upon me the pleasant task of declaring open the **2<sup>nd</sup> CBR World Congress 2016**. I am happy to note that representation at this congress is really wide in which delegates have come from various countries.

## DATA ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN MALAYSIA

4. According to the World Report on Disability 2010 published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank, approximately **15% of every population in a country** are persons with disabilities. Based on the current population in Malaysia, this would mean there are approximately 4.5 million persons with disabilities in the country. **As of June 2016**, there are **387,122** persons with disabilities registered with the Department of Social Welfare. However, I believe that there are a lot more out there who are not registered with us.
  
5. The Malaysian Government through the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development puts emphasis on data collection to ensure proper planning with regard to its target groups, including persons with disabilities. As such, the ministry through the Department of Social Welfare has developed an **integrated information system** called **SMOKU** (or *Sistem Maklumat OKU*) to register persons with disabilities. My ministry will continue to intensify its efforts to encourage more individuals and families to register themselves and their family members who are persons with disabilities

## CBR IN MALAYSIA

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

6. As you know, in Malaysia, CBR is a multisectoral approach working to improve the equalization of opportunities and social inclusion of

persons with disabilities. This was started in 1984 in Mukim Batu Rakit, Kuala Terengganu. There are **527 CBR centres in Malaysia** and CBR programs are carried out as on Home Based, Centre Based and Centre Home Based. Till to date, many programmes are organised around CBR matrix such as health, education, livelihood, social and empowerment.

7. I am also happy that various visits have been arranged for delegates to visit CBR centres. It clearly demonstrates the government's commitment and efforts to enhance the life of persons with disabilities and their families, promote rehabilitation of persons with disabilities through CBR and showcase our best practices.
8. In ensuring the disadvantaged group especially persons with disabilities enjoy equal opportunities, full participation in the society and be mainstreamed into the national agenda, Malaysia has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 19 July 2010, thus joining the global community in affirming the human rights of persons with disabilities.
9. Prior to that, the government formulated the Policy and Plan of Action for the Persons with Disabilities in 2007, and enacted the Persons with Disabilities Act 2008. In addition, the government had established the National Council for Persons with Disabilities in August 2008 which is chaired by me.
10. All these are evidences that the government is fully committed to the welfare and well-being of its disabled citizens and will continue to give the necessary support on ensuring that the CBR program continue to

provide a meaningful and beneficial service, not only for the disabled but for the community as whole.

11. I also hope that through the concerted and coordinated efforts involving the government agencies, voluntary organisations and corporate sector, our CBR would enjoy the same rights and privileges in contributing towards the national building process and the development of the economy with a human race.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

### **MALAYSIA AT THE 2016 SUMMER PARALYMPICS**

12. I would like to take this opportunity to **congratulate all the Malaysian paralympians who have won medals at the Paralympic Games Rio 2016** especially Ridzuan Puzi for winning our gold in the 100m T36 (cerebral palsy). For your information, Ridzuan Puzi was also our CBR trainee at Padang Besar, Perlis back in the year 2003 until 2006. I would also extend my heartiest congratulations to Ziyad Zolkefli who won the second gold with a new world record in the men's shot put F20 (intellectual disability) final with a distance of 16.84m and Abdul Latif Romly who delivered the third gold for Malaysia by breaking the world record – not once but three times – in the men's F20 long. Not forgetting also, Siti Noor Radiah Ismail who presented the Malaysian contingent with a bronze medal via the T20 women's long jump. They have proven that their disability is no barrier for them to achieve success and it is through their effort and sacrifice that Negaraku echoed through the arena in Rio. I also would like to wish a job well done to all the athletes representing the country in other sports in the Paralympic Games Rio 2016.

13. We have invited them who have excelled against odds to bring glory and fame to our nation. We would to honour them for their achievements and the coaches, individual and community as well as JKM who support and help them to achieve their dreams.
  
14. Their achievements is testament of the viability of Ministry's policy to integrate people with disabilities into our society as productive manpower that can contribute to the wellbeing of the nation. The success of this policy to integrate them into our society requires active participation and collaboration of Government, corporate entities and NGO. They need your understanding and support to help them translate their dream into reality. As Helen Keller once said " alone with we can do so little, together we can so much ". So let us all collaborate and support them to make a difference !!!
  
15. Therefore to honour their achievements in sport by proving that they are “not ordinary, but EXTRAORDINARY” or #kamiluarbiasa, the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development is very grateful to name our welfare institutions after these great Paralympic athletes. Taman Sinar Harapan or care and rehabilitation centre to those with learning disabilities in Jitra, Kedah will be known as Taman Sinar Harapan Ridzuan Puzi while Taman Sinar Harapan in Cheras, Selangor is going to be named as Taman Sinar Harapan Ziyad Zolkefli. For Abdul Latif Romly, Rumah Kanak-kanak Mini or mini children’s home in Arau will be named after him and another Rumah Kanak-kanak Mini in Johor will be known as Rumah Kanak-Kanak Mini Siti Noor Radiah Ismail.

## **CONCLUSION**

Ladies and gentlemen,

16. Last but not least, I would like to record my deepest appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the joint organisers namely; CBR Network Malaysia and the Malaysian Council For Rehabilitation as well the Ministry's Secretariat, for inviting me to be a part of this significant programme and congratulations for organising such a meaningful congress.
17. There are always 2 key ingredients in conducting a successful congress – the hard work of the organising committee and the active involvement of the participants. As such, a huge thank you to all the participants who are here today in this congress.
18. To all delegates, it is my fervent hope that the congress and frameworks contained within will help many to shape its response to the challenges of improving access that will lend to the improvement of the quality of life for persons with disabilities.
19. In the midst of discussion and deliberations, please do find time to enjoy the many places of interests and varied cultural richness that Malaysia can offer. Once again, I wish all of you especially the delegates a fruitful discussion and an enjoyable stay in Malaysia.

I now have the pleasure in declaring open the 2<sup>nd</sup> CBR World Congress.  
Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah Wasallam Mualaikum W.B.T.