



PRESS RELEASE

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CHILDLINE MALAYSIA, A FREE PHONE EMERGENCY OUTREACH SERVICE FOR CHILDREN, CLOSER TO BECOME A REALITY

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 May 2009 – A private initiative to create a national 24-hour free phone emergency outreach service for children in need of care and protection is closer to become a reality for children in Malaysia with the involvement of more than 140 non-governmental organizations, government agencies, Childline International and private sectors.

The move to create the service was initiated by a group of concerned citizens from various backgrounds after a series of cases involving cruelty against children in the past two years. Among high profile cases were the murder of Nurin Jazlin Jazimin and the still missing Sharlinie Mohd Nashar and Mohd Asmawi. All three cases and many others have yet to be resolved.

Childline Malaysia provides emergency assistance and then refers the child to other organisations for long-term rehabilitation through partnership with various agencies. It is to be a privately funded project, run in partnership with NGOs, Childline International, UNICEF, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and telecom service provider.

According to the Chairman of Childline Malaysia, Sabri Abdul Rahman, Childline Malaysia will provide emergency interventions during a crisis period in a child's life. Any child can call the free phone line at any time of the day.

"Childline Malaysia will reach out to every child in need of care and protection by responding to calls and then refers the child to other organizations for long term rehabilitation if necessary," he said in a statement.

To ensure the success launch of the helpline, the first Brainstorming Meeting of Stakeholders will be held on 19th May 2009 in conjunction with International Child Helpline Day. The meeting will be officiated by the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, Senator Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, who first mooted the idea of creating a long term aid program for Malaysian children.

The meeting will also be briefed by Head of Programmes, Child Helpline International on lesson from other nations. Child Helpline International is the global member network of Child Helplines working to protect the rights of the child. It is a network of telephone helplines and outreach services for children and young people in over 150 countries with 91 official members.

Childline Malaysia is expected to be launched at the end of the year in which the First Phase will provide free phone service in Klang Valley while the Second Phase will cover nationwide.

For further information, please contact Mrs PH Wong at Childline Malaysia tel: 603 5569 2755 or e-mail wong@mctf.org.my or surf our website childline@mctf.org.my

