

Quarterly Newsletter of MILAD

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2022



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大马残障自立协会
MALAYSIA INDEPENDENT
LIVING ASSOCIATION FOR DISABLED

(PPM-005-10-02112017)

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



To our dear esteemed friends , donors and supporters

Malaysia Independent Living Association For Disabled (MILAD) has emerged from our storms and challenges of this unprecedented past years , thankfully clinging on to our philosophy , mission and vision of the independent living movement for disabled community. The dawn of hope for us is so evident in your love, kindness and generosity in giving, cash and kind. This provided the impact, resources and strength to move forward to achieve greater goals. Words can never really appreciate nor thank you enough for what you have done for us as a community in 2022.

We take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy , healthy, prosperous and blessed 2023.

“It is more blessed to give than to receive”

miladmalaysia.org

Sia Siew Chin

LET US MOVE TOGETHER ON INCLUSION

“

We have to do whatever we can to pick the right people to govern the nation and whom we can rely on to take care of our needs

”



We want our votes to be counted and our voices too!

In the 15th General Election (GE15), MILAD as one of the signatories of an open letter urging our politicians to heed the views of the disabled community.


The full text of the letter can be read below:

Some 15% of the Malaysian community has a disability. Another 20-30% are care partners, volunteers and professionals involved in their lives. Collectively, we comprise 30% to 40% of the Malaysian electorate. Although from diverse backgrounds, we are united on the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.

It would be prudent for politicians and political parties, especially those hoping to be elected as MPs or state assemblymen, to heed the views of voters who are associated with disability and the OKU community.

The vast majority of the disability community are registered voters who make the effort to vote, despite challenges.

The OKU community and care partners (parents, families, carers) have been neglected, overlooked and marginalised for far too long. We will not accept this any longer.



The major concerns that involve the daily struggles of adults and children with disabilities include:

- Improve employment inclusion - better and wider job opportunities;
- Improve education inclusion - inclusion in mainstream classes with reasonable accommodation;
- Implement Universal Building By-Laws UBBL34A 1984 - make public facilities accessible not just for OKU, but also for older adults facing mobility issues as part of ageing;
- Enforce the rights of persons with disabilities.

Over decades, there has been only marginal improvement on these issues. No game changer resource investment and efforts have been made.

Are you hoping to be elected?
Do you want our votes?

If you want our votes, what will you do to strengthen our rights and make inclusive education and employment a reality?


Will you support the urgent amendment of the Persons with Disabilities (PwD) Act 2008, to give it the scope and powers to enforce the rights of persons with disabilities?


We shall vote for the parties and candidates with a disability-inclusive political manifesto and that show understanding of implementing disability-inclusive action plans.

We shall vote for the election manifesto that specifies the following:

1. A plan to revise the PwD Act 2008, within two years of taking office, to give it the scope and powers to enforce the rights of persons with disabilities.
2. A commitment to significantly improve real inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities in the Malaysian education, vocational training and employment sectors.
3. A commitment to implement universal design principles to ensure persons with disabilities and care partners can move around freely in the community.
4. A pledge to engage with persons with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities and care partners to understand our concerns.

All of you who need our votes to get elected - please listen to our lived experiences. Value our voices.





We appeal to all political parties to find GE15 candidates with experience of effectively tackling OKU issues. Consider fielding experienced persons with disabilities as political candidates. If you earn points on this score card, you stand a chance to be considered by us as a voting bloc.

We strongly encourage you to have Bahasa Isyarat Malaysia (BIM) interpreting services as a standard part of your ceramah and audio-visual social media posts.

Make all your information materials for the public screen reader-accessible; this includes all websites and online services.

We thank the Election Commission for efforts made so far for OKU participation in the election process. We ask that you now remove all remaining barriers to voting.

Please improve the accessibility of checking voting registration and the voting process for all persons with diverse disabilities

Information for making informed choices must be in formats that can be accessed. For example, deaf voters need BIM interpreting, blind voters need screen reader accessibility, and many voters need information in Easy Read format.

All online processes and services must be totally screen reader accessible and in accordance with the latest international standards. For example, ensure that the captcha form on the "MySPR semak" website is screen reader-accessible. Please improve the accessibility of voting venues for voters with disabilities and older persons. Accessibility improvements for persons with diverse disabilities benefit everyone.

It is time that Malaysian policy and lawmakers bring the nation into the 21st century where disability is concerned. We need to move away from the prevalent charity and welfare model and move towards the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in society.


We hope that GE15 will be a turning point in our nation's history.

As a nation, let us move together on inclusion as a universal human right.

Join us in respecting and valuing the dignity and worth of every person.

Show us how you will include persons with diverse disabilities, older persons, care partners and allies.

We urge you to support #OKURightsMatter.



WHEELCHAIR HANDOVER CEREMONY



On Wednesday, 15 Dec 2022 Malaysia Independent Living Association For Disabled - MILAD 大马残障自立协会 handed over 15 wheelchairs to 15 beneficiaries at MILAD, SS3. We were honoured to have Tony Pua who representing YB Gobind Singh Deo joining our ceremony.

There is no greater sight than viewing the immense joy and appreciation on the faces of our OKU community members when they receive their new set of wheels.

We would also like to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation to CCEP Association (扶貧計劃協會 Community Care Enrichment Programme) and HOC Charity for sponsoring us the wheelchairs worth a total of RM48,000.

THE JOY OF FREEDOM

by Samson Leong (ILP E1 group)

I suffered a stroke in mid 2019. By mid 2020 I completed my medical treatments and therapies. Through my brother who took care of me, I came to know Esther and Peter of MILAD. Both of them encouraged, guided and coached me into the philosophy and principles of independent living (IL) during the MCO period. I attended ILP and began to set goals. I was using crutches then. I purpose to move around without my crutches and thankfully achieved it within a year. This made me more employable.

My biggest challenge was not only to cope with my disability but I had financial challenges as i was no longer employed. I thank God i found a suitable job at the beginning of this year as my condition improved. Currently I set myself another goal to continue with therapy and exercise in a disciplined manner so that i can gain strength back in my weaker hand.

I wish I could still attend LP regularly but my internet connection and device does not permit me to do so in my new location.

I am grateful to my Peer Counselors and the MILAD Team. Now back to socety to help change socety.

Ref:2/2022
20 Oct 2022



Samson Leong (Right) with his peer counsellor, Peter Khor (Left)

A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE

by Priscilla (ILP E2 group)

I am a visually impaired person (VIP), staying alone. In the past I rely fully on friends to assist me. I knew about independent living(IL), through a friend. After registration with MILAD, I received counselling , encouragement , PA assistance and attended ILP regularly for the past two years until now. The philosophy and principles of IL that I learnt empowered me to live independently. Today I'm confident to make my own choices and decisions. This is one occasion I made the right choice and was greatly rewarded.

I faced severe challenges staying in my apartment for many years as water leakages from my upstairs neighbour resulted in an unsafe situation for me. On one occasion I slipped and fell in my kitchen due to a slippery floor. Unfortunately I injured my back. I was guided by my peer counsellor to resolve this matter through the Tribunal at COB , Putrajaya . My PA, Saraswathy, assisted me to fill out the required documents, accompany me for all the tribunal hearings. I thank God I won my case and even received compensation. My neighbour, above my apartment , had to rectify all the leakages into my unit. I now have better peace of mind after suffering in this condition for many years. What a relief! Thank you to MILAD, my PA and peer counsellors for their timely support.

Ref: 1/2022

6 Oct 22



THANK YOU

Having a disability should not mean being excluded. MILAD would like to record our appreciation of the kindness and help we have received from every one of you. With your support, MILAD can continue to provide services, promote Independent Living Movement and improve the support for persons with disabilities. In this festive season, we want to take a moment to thank everyone who has reached out to support our vulnerable community, regardless in-cash or in-kind. Here are our October - December donors:

- Mr. Tojo from Haven's Steakhouse for treating 32 of our OKU community member to lunch on 26 November 2022.
- Dato Ling for sponsoring jackfruits on 24 November 2022
- Jeffrey Lai and Kelvin Lai for sponsoring Durian from Raub on 17 November 2022
- Lions Club of KL Elite for sending adult diapers to our OKU community.
- Rawang Optical House who has generously sponsored 20 pairs of eyeglasses on 12 November,
- Chor 1 Group who brought us a brand new refrigerator and deliver food to our community on the first day of every Lunar month.
- Petaling Jaya Chinese Cemetery Association Gui Yuan Crematorium for donating RM 5,000 to MILAD on 5 October 2022
- 扶貧計劃協會 Community Care Enrichment Programme for donating eggs and diapers on 4 October 2022
- HEARLIFE and SWISS MEDICARE for sponsoring 10 sets of hearing aids which worth a total of RM96,000.



DONATION PLEDGE FORM

I (WE) WOULD LIKE TO PLEDGE TO MILAD

NAME(S) MAKING PLEDGE:

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PLEDGE:

ADDRESS:

.....

.....

PHONE:

EMAIL:

**MALAYSIA INDEPENDENT LIVING
ASSOCIATION FOR DISABLED**

MAYBANK

5122 3141 0368

SWIFT CODE: MBBEMYKL

EMAIL: INFO@MILADMALAYSIA.ORG

MILADMALAYSIA@GMAIL.COM

TEL: 013-397 3386

ADDRESS: NO. 33, JALAN SS3/14, TAMAN
UNIVERSITI, 47300 PETALING JAYA, SELANGOR



Malaysia Independent Living Association for Disabled (“MILAD”) is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation run by a group of people with disabilities, to help people with disabilities toward Independent Living, regardless of their background, race and religion.

OUR VISION

It is our vision to establish a society that embraces the concept of Independent Living which promotes the disabled peoples full inclusion and participation in the community, wherein the disabled people are given the same life opportunities and the same choices in everyday life that the non-disabled people take for granted.



OUR GOAL

Our goal is to train, equip and empower the people with disabilities to live independently, and at the same time advocating for equal rights and opportunities for them. We strive toward creating awareness so that the general public will have the right perspective toward disability and people with disabilities, and hence able to help transform the society to allow full inclusion and participation at every possible level by the disabled people.

