



PARLIMEN MALAYSIA

## SIARAN MEDIA

### UNTUK SIARAN SERTA-MERTA

#### **YANG DI-PERTUA DEWAN RAKYAT GESA PARLIMEN KOMANWEL TANGANI ISU AGEISME DAN STEREOTAIP JANTINA AGAR PERSPEKTIF BELIA DAN WANITA DITERIMA DALAM PARLIMEN**

**Kampala, 5 Januari 2024**— YB Tan Sri Dato' (Dr.) Johari Abdul, Yang di-Pertua Dewan Rakyat telah menghadiri upacara pembukaan *27th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of The Commonwealth (CSPOC)* yang dirasmikan oleh Presiden Uganda, TYT Yoweri Kaguta Museveni di Kampala, Uganda pada 9 pagi waktu tempatan Khamis.

Acara pembuka tirai persidangan Speaker dan pegawai Dewan negara-negara Komanwel itu turut dihadiri oleh delegasi Parlimen Malaysia termasuk YB Senator Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar, Yang di-Pertua Dewan Negara, YBrs. Tuan Muhd Sujairi Abdullah, Setiausaha Dewan Negara dan YBrs. Dr. Nizam Mydin Bacha Mydin, Setiausaha Dewan Rakyat serta 40 Speaker dan ketua Dewan daripada 32 negara Komanwel.

Dalam pada itu, YB Tan Sri Dato' (Dr.) Johari telah menggesa parlimen-parlimen Komanwel agar meningkatkan pengambilkiraan perspektif belia dan wanita dalam penggubalan undang-undang selain daripada menangani isu-isu sistemik termasuk ageisme dan stereotaip jantina. Kenyataan ini telah disampaikan dalam ucapannya yang bertajuk "Parlimen yang Pelbagai dan Terangkum (Sensitiviti Belia dan Jantina) (*"Diverse and Inclusive Parliaments (Youth and gender Sensitivity)*)".

Jelas beliau, Parlimen Malaysia sebagai institusi penggubalan undang-undang negara berinisiatif untuk membuka lebih banyak keterlibatan pelbagai latar belakang masyarakat melalui penganjuran pelbagai program di Parlimen. Tambahnya, salah satu daripada langkah ini termasuk program Parlimen Belia Malaysia yang kini diselia

oleh Parlimen Malaysia dan dirombak untuk membuka penyertaan belia seawal usia 16 tahun sekaligus menggalakkan lebih ramai penyertaan wanita sebagai langkah strategik untuk melahirkan pemimpin muda yang lebih holistik.

“Parlimen Belia adalah wadah dinamik yang melibatkan golongan muda Malaysia dalam proses perundangan, memupuk kemahiran kepimpinan, dan menyediakan mereka untuk peranan masa depan sebagai ahli parlimen di bawah umur 30 tahun. Program ini juga mempunyai potensi memupuk pemimpin wanita. Kami membuka penyertaan kepimpinan wanita dan ini akan menyumbang kepada matlamat keterangkuman jantina. Tuntasnya, usaha ini akan membuka laluan bagi peningkatan perwakilan wanita, sejajar dengan matlamat negara untuk mencapai sasaran peratusan perwakilan wanita yang sama rata di parlimen.” kata Yang di-Pertua Dewan Rakyat dalam ucapannya.

Selain itu, YB Tan Sri Dato' (Dr.) Johari juga telah terlibat dalam bengkel CSPOC berkenaan alam sekitar, perubahan iklim dan peranan parlimen yang menegaskan komitmen ke arah sasaran Pelepasan Karbon Sifar Bersih menjelang 2050, seperti yang telah diperuntukkan di dalam Pelan Hala Tuju Peralihan Tenaga (NETR). Sebagai mendukung langkah ini, Parlimen Malaysia juga telah bersedia untuk memainkan peranannya dalam peralihan kepada tenaga boleh baharu sepenuhnya menjelang bulan Jun 2024.

Persidangan CSPOC kali ini akan berlangsung sehingga 6 Januari 2024. Sejak penubuhannya pada 1969, persidangan setiap dua tahun sekali ini bertujuan mengekalkan, memupuk, menggalakkan kesaksamaan dan keadilan antara Speaker serta ketua Dewan di seluruh negara-negara Komanwel. Maklumat lanjut mengenai persidangan ini boleh didapati di laman web <https://www.cspoc.org/>

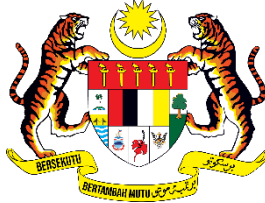
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**Untuk sebarang pertanyaan media, sila hubungi:**

Shaira Amira binti Jamal Abdul Nasir

Setiausaha Akhbar kepada Yang di-Pertua Dewan Rakyat Ke-11

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**PARLIMEN MALAYSIA**  
**PARLIAMENT OF MALAYSIA**

**27<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH (CSPOC27)**

Kampala, Uganda | 3 - 6 January 2024

**Topic 2:**  
**Diverse and Inclusive Parliament**  
**(Youth and Gender Sensitivity)**

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**Speech by:**

**His Excellency Tan Sri Dato' (Dr.) Johari bin Abdul**  
Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat  
Parliament of Malaysia

*Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh* and Good Morning / Evening

**[SALUTATION]**

Rt. Hon. Anita Annet Among  
Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda,  
Chairperson of the Organizing Committee for the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Speakers and  
Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)

Excellencies Presidents and Speakers of the Commonwealth Parliaments,

Clerk and Secretary of the Houses,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Allow me to start by expressing my sincere gratitude to our distinguished host country of the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth

(CSPOC), the Parliament of Uganda, and the gracious people of Uganda for their exceptional hospitality. The warmth and kindness extended to our delegation have greatly enhanced our experience during our stay and participation in this esteemed forum. I am confident that the other participating parliaments' delegates echo this appreciation.

2. Today, I am honored to address a topic of profound importance: **Diversity and Inclusivity in Parliaments**. In our interconnected world, marked by vast diversity, it is crucial that the legislative bodies accurately reflect the rich mosaic of our societies. Democracy is fundamentally built on the principle of representation. It will be ideal if our parliaments mirror the population's diversity, encompassing differences in gender, ethnicity, abilities, and socio-economic backgrounds. Such comprehensive representation does more than validate the democratic process; it significantly enhances it. Inclusivity and diversity in parliament are about ensuring that every voice is heard and considered, and that no one is left on the margins.

### ***Global State of Diversity and Inclusivity in Parliaments***

3. Diversity within our parliament is not merely a goal; it is a necessity. When the legislative assemblies are diverse, they bring a wealth of perspectives to the table. This diversity leads to more thorough and effective debates, fostering innovative solutions. Laws crafted in such an environment are more likely to address all citizens' varied needs and hopes, not just a select few. The goal is to guarantee that every segment of society has a meaningful stake in the legislative process, making inclusivity not just a moral imperative but a practical necessity for the health and effectiveness of every democracy.
4. Notably, as of October 1, 2023, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) data reveals a promising global trend towards more inclusive parliaments. 7 parliaments worldwide now boast over 50 per cent women representation. Additionally, 22 parliaments have achieved more than 40 per cent of women parliamentarians, and 35 have surpassed

the 30 per cent global target. This progress, while gradual, is a positive sign of increasing gender inclusivity in political representation.

5. In Malaysia, the Dewan Rakyat is represented by 30 female Members of Parliament, representing around 13.5 per cent of the 222 seats; meanwhile, in the Senate, there are 10 women representatives out of 62 Senators (16.7 per cent). With the active collaboration of political entities, Malaysia will intensify our efforts to make incremental improvements in this area and achieve the set target of having 30 per cent women representation in Parliament.
6. Nevertheless, the picture is less encouraging in youth representation, particularly those under 30, who are excluded from the global parliaments. This is crystal clear when the same IPU data showcased that only 3 parliaments have achieved more than 10 per cent representation of young parliamentarians under 30. Alarmingly, most parliaments, including Malaysia, have less than 1 per cent or even no representation in this age group. Specifically, Malaysia's figure stands at a mere 0.9 per cent. The scenario highlights the underrepresentation of youth in political decision-making roles. It underscores the need for CSPOC members to support all efforts to engage and empower the younger generation in the legislative process.

### ***A Way-forward to a Diverse and Inclusive Parliaments***

#### **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

7. In the 2017 IPU's Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments framework, there is a commendable emphasis on a holistic approach in enhancing women's participation in parliamentary roles. The plan thoughtfully advocates political parties to support women's involvement in Parliament and for a broader transformation of parliamentary environments. It underscores the importance of cultivating a parliamentary infrastructure and culture that inherently supports and accommodates women. This thoughtful approach extends to the composition of parliamentary staff, where the plan gracefully suggests a harmonious gender balance, fostering

inclusivity and equality. Achieving gender equality in the legislative bodies is not only a matter of justice but also a recognition of the unique contributions that both men and women bring to the table.

8. Conversely, the other IPU initiative, *'I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament,'* represents a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to the shared endeavor to enhance youth participation in governance. It is incumbent upon all members of the CSPOC to fully support this initiative as it is not just a call to action, but a beacon of progress, embodying the principles of inclusivity and forward-thinking leadership. A parliament that recognizes and empowers the youth ensures a sustainable and progressive future. Doing so, CSPOC members collectively affirm the commitment to nurturing the next generation of parliamentary leaders and ensuring that the voices of youth are not just heard but are integral in shaping the future of the democracies.
  
9. Youth inclusion and gender sensitivity in parliament should be addressed hand-in-hand as this integrated approach promotes fairness or equality. Studies have shown that diverse groups, including those with a balance of gender and age, tend to make better, more innovative decisions. For instance, young parliamentarians are more likely to prioritize issues such as climate change, employment, and education, which are crucial for sustainable development. Their energy, idealism, and innovative thinking can breathe new life into our legislative processes.
  
10. Similarly, empirical evidence has shown that when women are involved in the decision-making process, the outcomes often result in more effective and equitable policies. By tackling youth and gender inclusivity, parliaments can ensure a more holistic approach to representation, reflecting the full spectrum of society's needs and perspectives. This dual focus not only enriches the democratic process but also strengthens the legitimacy and responsiveness of the governing institutions.

## ***Malaysia's Stories of Youth and Gender-sensitive Parliament***

### **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

11. In Malaysia, we have the Malaysian Youth Parliament, which plays a crucial role in amplifying the voices and aspirations of our youth. This year will mark a significant shift, as the Youth Parliament will now fall under the direct oversight of the Malaysian Parliament. Additionally, we are lowering the participation age to 16, previously set at 18. This change aligns with Malaysia's recent adjustment of the voting age and eligibility for election candidacy from 21 to 18.
  
12. I believe, the Government's approach to reducing the Youth Parliament's age limit is strategic, it provides a longer period for young individuals to be groomed in leadership and governance. It is not enough to have young representatives; we must actively involve them in the decision-making process at an early phase. The Youth Parliament is more than just a symbolic entity; it is a dynamic platform enabling young Malaysians to engage meaningfully in the legislative process, hone their leadership skills, and preparing them for future roles as full-fledged members of parliament; as young parliamentarians under 30.
  
13. Significantly, the Youth Parliament holds the potential, perhaps unexpectedly, to become a fertile ground for nurturing future female leaders. This happens as the Parliament of Malaysia actively promotes and supports young women's participation and leadership within its framework. Such an environment not only addresses the immediate goals of gender inclusivity but also strategically prepares a steady stream of capable women leaders in political entities. This development could significantly contribute towards achieving Malaysia's national objective of 30 per cent female representation in parliament, paving the way for a more balanced and gender-sensitive governance system in Malaysia.

## ***Recommendation to CSPOC Member Parliaments***

### ***Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

14. The path to achieving a parliament that accurately represents both youth and gender is loaded with obstacles. Directly implementing youth and gender quotas may be unfeasible in a democratic context. However, a practical and immediate action for all CSPOC member parliaments is to consciously integrate the perspectives of youth and women into parliamentary discourse and decision-making. This approach serves as a provisional strategy, while gradually waiting for the parliament's composition to be aligned with the demographic realities of our societies, thereby enhancing inclusivity and representation in our legislative process.
  
15. Tackling systemic challenges like ageism and gender stereotyping is crucial for enhancing youth and women's inclusivity in parliament. Public education or campaigns to increase awareness are essential in this regard. Moreover, the excessive cost of political campaigns often hinders the involvement of young and female candidates. Addressing this challenge requires the development of supportive structures and resources to facilitate more equitable participation in the political arena.
  
16. Before I conclude, I would like to emphasize the collective responsibility we hold as members of the CSPOC, to foster environments where diversity and inclusivity are not just ideals, but integral components of our parliamentary systems. Diversity and inclusivity is a beacon of true democracy, as it represents all citizens the equal stake in the decision-making process. Let us pledge to work tirelessly towards breaking down the barriers that impede this progress, nurturing a political landscape where every voice, regardless of age or gender, is valued and heard.

Thank you.