



ORPHANCARE FOUNDATION

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'DEINSTITUTIONALISATION OF CHILDREN: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND TRIBULATIONS 10-11 December 2015

December 10, 2015 (Kuala Lumpur) – OrphanCARE Foundation jointly with the Ministry of Women, Family & Community Development (KPWKM) hosted a two-day conference at Pullman Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The conference themed **'Deinstitutionalisation of Children: Overcoming Challenges and Tribulations'** was **launched by** HRH Sultanah Pahang Sultanah Hajjah Kalsom, Patron of OrphanCARE Foundation. Yang Berhormat Senator Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun, Deputy Minister Of Women, Family And Community Development delivered the opening address. The Keynote Address was by Sir Roger Singleton, Managing Director of LUMOS , a **charity** based in London whose mission is to end the systematic institutionalisation of children in Europe. Sir Roger Singleton's extensive involvement in removing children who were unnecessarily living in institutions in the UK was of great interest to the participants.

Tan Sri Faizah, OC Chairman reiterated the key messages delivered at the last two forums on Deinstitutionalisation in 2013 and 2014, stating that "Orphanages are not conducive and can well be harmful to a child's full potential development. A family environment provides a more comprehensive atmosphere including care, love and basic needs for the children's physical and mental advancement. There are better and more cost effective ways to care for children. Institutions require high maintenance; the same funds should be used to support families to keep and look after their own children, and where that is not possible, provide quality care in family-like homes for children who cannot be placed for various reasons"



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Tan Sri Faizah added that “There is little awareness of DI as orphanages are still generally not viewed as detrimental to a child’s well-being and many corporates are still donating to orphanages. More needs to be done to change mindsets amongst the community and corporates about orphanages and educate them about how the funds could be better used to enable children to be raised in families instead of in institutions. There is a critical need for there to be a mindset change in all sectors of society so that orphans and abandoned children are not raised in institutions and condemned to a bleak future”.

OrphanCARE and KPWKM appeal to the community as a whole to re-think how best they can help vulnerable families and abandoned children - instead of ad hoc donations to orphanages, it is much more important to ensure every child under institutional care gets the placement they need whether, with their family, in foster care, local adoption or in a small group home.

This is the third such event on deinstitutionalization jointly organized by the Ministry and OrphanCARE. The first two forums were held in November 2013 and June 2014.

OrphanCare Foundation

"EVERY CHILD NEEDS A FAMILY"

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