



# Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor

No.11A, Jalan Restu 1, Taman Restu 43000 Kajang Selangor

Tel : (603) 8737 8380 Email : [sahabatwanita@gmail.com](mailto:sahabatwanita@gmail.com)

Website : [www.persatuansahabatwanita.org](http://www.persatuansahabatwanita.org)

## PRESS STATEMENT

### CONTACT:

**Irene Xavier**, Executive Director

Mobile: 012 649 4917

Thursday, 2 April 2020

## Putrajaya refusing to cut bureaucratic red tape to allow willing NGOs to send out food aid, is inhumane

Sixteen days have passed since the Movement Control Order (MCO) was announced and the last stocks of provisions have long since depleted in homes and dwellings where workers and their families are stranded without the means for basic necessities and food, unreached by government food aid efforts, and the bureaucratic containment rules that is barring NGOs from stepping in with food provisions is an inhumane policy that must be dropped immediately.

The current policy barring NGOs from distributing aid to the homeless was lifted yesterday (1 April) and a similar aid solution must be arrived upon that will allow NGOs to send food aid to the needy as there are thousands of daily-waged workers especially single-mothers with children to feed and migrant workers abandoned by employers amidst the MCO, who are going hungry for every day we mull over procedural shortcomings.

Some migrant workers are able to pool their cash savings together but because they are housed within factory premises which are often located in remote areas, far from shops, they are unable to replenish their provisions.

We are all in uncharted waters and while the containment Order is taken seriously and its purpose fully appreciated, the government must admit that it is inundated with pleas that have not been processed in addition to the growing number of needy groups yet to be identified, and accept assistance from NGOs other than those currently approved to execute the aid.

Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor (PSWS) along with many other NGOs and civil society members striving for women's and worker rights are struggling to turn away the deluge of pleas for food from hundreds of workers, many of whom are migrants and single mothers.

We even tried calling the related district Department of Social Welfare and the relevant NGOs but there was no answer at either numbers.



# Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor

No.11A, Jalan Restu 1, Taman Restu 43000 Kajang Selangor

Tel : (603) 8737 8380 Email : [sahabatwanita@gmail.com](mailto:sahabatwanita@gmail.com)

Website : [www.persatuansahabatwanita.org](http://www.persatuansahabatwanita.org)

---

The Ministries of Defense and Health need to urgently look at revising the policy and allow NGOs to distribute food, applying disaster protocols that will suspend red tape procedures, because the situation for many has become very dire.

The fact that people do not have food is a reality and it is not too late to reconsider a policy that is preventing food from reaching those in need of it.

Our priority should be to ensure that no one goes hungry during the MCO and the relevant ministries can find a way to monitor NGOs, designating them to areas which they will service.

This way, food aid can be distributed quickly all across Malaysia, as NGOs already know where they are needed and the food provisions can be raised through donations from Malaysia's generous public who have never failed to rise to the call for aid.

---

**Persatuan Sahabat Wanita Selangor** (PSWS) is a non-governmental organisation that has been committed to the concerns and interest of women workers as well as to the larger issues of democracy, justice and equality in the Malaysian society, since 1984.