



MERCY MALAYSIA CALLS FOR STRONGER GOVERNANCE OF PUBLIC DONATIONS AND SUPPORTS CONSIDERATION OF A ROYAL CHARITIES COMMISSION

Kuala Lumpur, 30 March 2026 - MERCY Malaysia takes note of the recent proposal by Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) to introduce new legislation addressing public fund management, including donations collected by non-governmental organisations

As a humanitarian organisation committed to accountability and high standards of ethical conduct, MERCY Malaysia supports efforts to strengthen governance frameworks that safeguard public trust. The increasing scale and complexity of public fundraising, including digital and cross-border contributions, necessitate clear, consistent and enforceable regulatory mechanisms.

Recent investigations into NGO fundraising activities have underscored gaps in the current system and the need for a more coherent legal framework governing public donations. Strengthened legislation, particularly in areas relating to misuse of public funds, welfare governance and political financing, can help reduce risks of abuse, conflict of interest and large-scale misappropriation.

In this regard, MERCY Malaysia expresses its support for the consideration of establishing a Royal Charities Commission. Such a body could play a critical role in enhancing oversight, setting sector-wide standards, and promoting greater transparency across charitable organisations operating in Malaysia.

“MERCY Malaysia believes that maintaining public trust is fundamental to the effectiveness of humanitarian work. The establishment of a Royal Charities Commission would be a timely and important step towards strengthening accountability and ensuring that charitable contributions are managed with integrity and proper oversight,” said Dato’ Dr Ahmad Faizal Mohd Perdaus, President of MERCY Malaysia

“Any new regulatory framework should be developed in close consultation with civil society organisations to ensure it remains enabling, practical and responsive to humanitarian needs. We stand ready to support the Government and relevant authorities in shaping policies that protect the public interest while preserving the ability of NGOs to deliver critical assistance to vulnerable communities.”

MERCY Malaysia has consistently maintained robust governance structures, including oversight by its Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, supported by regular independent audits, as part of its commitment to the highest standards of accountability.

MERCY Malaysia emphasises that regulatory reforms should be developed through inclusive and consultative processes to ensure they are practical and proportionate. Effective oversight must be balanced with the need for humanitarian organisations to respond swiftly in times of crisis.

MERCY Malaysia stands ready to contribute its expertise and operational experience to ongoing discussions led by SPRM and relevant authorities, including the Jabatan Peguam Negara.

MERCY Malaysia reiterates its commitment to responsible stewardship of public contributions and to working collaboratively in strengthening governance across the humanitarian sector.

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