



PRESS STATEMENT

WBS–WFD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENS WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN MALAYSIA’S DEMOCRATIC LANDSCAPE

SHAH ALAM, 23 June 2025 – **Wanita Berdaya Selangor (WBS)** marked a historic milestone today by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)**, representing a strategic step forward in strengthening women's participation and leadership in Malaysia's democratic landscape. The signing ceremony took place at the MTES Meeting Room, SSAAS Building, Shah Alam.

The ceremony also marked the symbolic beginning of a bilateral collaboration to support the implementation of the Gender Observatory Programme under the Women Political Leadership Programme (Phase II), which will run from May to August 2025.

Distinguished guests present at the event included:

- **Yang Berhormat Tuan Lau Weng San**, Speaker of the Selangor State Legislative Assembly
- **Yang Berhormat Puan Anfaal binti Saari**, Selangor State Executive Councillor for Women and Family Development and Chairperson of WBS
- **YBhg. Dato’ Ts. Saipolyazan M Yusop**, Group Chief Executive Officer, Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated)
- **Mr Matthew Hedges**, Director for Asia Pacific and the Americas, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

This collaboration encompasses various initiatives, including research design on gender and democracy, stakeholder consultation labs, data-sharing dialogues, policy progress monitoring, formulation of research agendas, public presentations, and advocacy for more gender-inclusive public policy.

The MoU aligns with the aspirations and policy framework of the Selangor Women's Policy, supporting the priorities outlined in the *Rancangan Selangor Pertama* (RS-1) to elevate women's leadership as a driver of social change and state development. It also reflects the values of *Malaysia MADANI*, which emphasise sustainability, inclusivity, and social justice - ensuring that women's voices and participation are uplifted within national policymaking and democratic processes.

As the lead institution for the Gender Observatory Programme, WBS is committed to championing gender-responsive, progressive, and democratic governance at both the state and national levels. WBS welcomes multi-stakeholder collaboration to strengthen women's roles as decision-makers and to create a sustainable and inclusive leadership ecosystem.

For further information or media enquiries, please visit the official of *Wanita Berdaya Selangor* website or contact Ms Amalia Huda binti Ahmad Shukri at +6011-31051027.

About WBS

Established in 2021, *Wanita Berdaya Selangor* (WBS) was founded to implement the Selangor Women's Policy through three core pillars: Policy Development, Women's Empowerment, and Leadership Building. WBS is a subsidiary of Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated). It serves as the implementing agency for women's empowerment initiatives under the Selangor State Standing Committee for Women and Family Empowerment, Social Welfare, and the Care Economy.

About WFD

Founded in 1992, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is a United Kingdom-based public body dedicated to strengthening democracy and open societies worldwide. WFD works to create sustainable democratic change, such as promoting women's leadership and maintaining transparent and fair institutions.

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Department of Business Development & Strategic Communications
Wanita Berdaya Selangor
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