



Kuala Lumpur – 04 Jan 2011. CCM Youth issued a press release today expressing their disappointment with Kedah Gerakan Youth Chief Tan Keng Liang’s shameful Twitter remarks, which were discriminatory and disrespectful not only to State Assemblyman Hannah Yeoh but to all Malaysian women.

CCM Youth viewed that such insulting remarks contradicted and were inconsistent with the Prime Minister’s efforts outlined in the Budget 2011, which included among others, the extension of fully paid maternity leave from 60 days to 90 days. These moves were lauded as the “most women and family friendly” by the Women, Family and Community Development Minister, Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil thus acknowledging the substantive role of women in the workforce and our government’s initiatives to encourage more women to come out to work.

CCM Youth reminded members of political parties to uphold the values in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women “CEDAW”, as Malaysia had since 1995 taken definitive steps to ratify the CEDAW.

CCM Youth thanked the government for actively removing all forms of discrimination against women and sought the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development to take firm action against any member of political parties seeking to take public office who, at the same time, openly abuse the media space for cheap publicity to incite discriminatory views made on the grounds of gender.

The Kedah Gerakan Youth Chief had attacked a fundamental right of Malaysian women by stereotyping them. CCM Youth is saddened that after 53 years of independence, there are still incompetent politicians who cling on to archaic views that women do not have the abilities and potential for developing professional and even political careers, while taking on multiple roles as wife and mother. CCM Youth reiterated that motherhood is God’s gift to be respected at all times.

Hence, CCM Youth has sought IMMEDIATE action to be taken against Tan Keng Liang in the following manner:

1. That Gerakan leadership should haul him up for public censure with an immediate suspension from all official party positions; and,
2. Issue a public apology, not only to State Assemblyman Hannah Yeoh, but to all Malaysian women; and,
3. The Ministry to put all political party cadres through trainings in proper media etiquette and women's rights.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Chai