



REGAL MEAL ... His Majesty the King of Malaysia Sultan Ibrahim having lunch with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at a restaurant in Johor Bahru on Monday - *PIC FROM SULTAN IBRAHIM SULTAN ISKANDAR FACEBOOK PAGE*

Govt mulls new law to protect senior citizens

> Minister highlights need for consensus on legal and family-based approaches

KUALA LUMPUR: The Women, Family and Community Development Ministry is evaluating the feasibility of introducing a law to ensure the welfare and protection of the elderly

Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri said before implementing such a law, it is crucial to gain consensus on its approach, particularly whether punitive measures should be imposed on children who neglect their responsibility to care for their parents, similar to Singapore's approach.

"Additionally, we must consider whether fostering noble values, responsibility and other principles within families would strengthen family institutions, thereby reducing the need for legal enforcement," she said.

Nancy explained that the evaluation is part of a study to determine whether a new law should be drafted or if improvements can be made through amendments to existing laws.

She was speaking during a question-and-answer session at the Dewan Negara yesterday in response to a supplementary question from Senator Che Alias Hamid, who asked about the current status of the senior citizens Bill, initially scheduled for tabling this year, but postponed.

Che Alias emphasised the importance of the Bill as Malaysia approaches its transition into an ageing nation by 2030, urging for the Bill be prioritised.

In response to a question from Senator Datuk Shamsuddin Abd Ghaffar regarding the

long-term plan to address the issue of neglected and suffering senior citizens, Nancy said her ministry has implemented several initiatives, including the Cinta Minda Intergenerasi programme.

Launched in 2018 under the state-level senior citizen development committee, the programme focuses on raising awareness and bridging the generational gap between youths and seniors, fostering mutual respect and appreciation between the generations, Bernama reported.

Additionally, the National Advisory and Consultative Council for Older Persons continues to offer recommendations and advise the government on matters related to senior citizens, including empowering their rights and developing infrastructure to cater to their needs.

"All stakeholders are encouraged to contribute their views and suggestions to enhance the well-being of senior citizens," she added.