

## YAYASAN PENCEGAHAN JENAYAH MALAYSIA

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## PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY VICE-CHAIRMAN OF MALAYSIA CRIME PREVENTION FOUNDATION (MCPF) TAN SRI LEE LAM THYE

The MCPF welcomes the decision by the Subang Jaya Police to form a Task Force to investigate the disappearance and death of six-year-old William Yau Zhen Zhong.

The setting up of the Task Force is most appropriate considering the seriousness of the high-profile case and the need to get to the bottom of the tragedy so that the truth will be known as to the actual cause of Zhen Zhong's death.

The Police must leave no stone unturned in its probe on the tragic death of Zhen Zhong as it is a matter of grave public interest and if foul play is the cause then the culprits must be brought to justice.

Over the years there have been numerous cases of missing children, some ended with tragic deaths while many others could not be traced.

In the wake of heinous criminal acts against children such as kidnap, assault, abuse, sodomy, rape and murder, we need to do more to protect children from harm.

Protecting children from violence is an integral component of protecting their rights to survival, growth and development.

Protecting children from despicable criminal acts and all forms of abuses is the responsibility of all. It is not just the duty of the authorities concerned to protect children but society as a whole has to play a part as well.

Protection of children must start from the parents and the home. Parents must never neglect their responsibility to show care and love for their children. They need to teach their children how to respond to potentially dangerous situation.

Parents and guardians of children must always be vigilant and alert to ensure the optimum safety of their children. Parents need to advise their children to be wary of strangers, educate them on safety and what to do when untoward incidents occur.

Parents must always monitor their underaged children's whereabouts and not allow them to move around unsupervised.

Children must be taught to be suspicious of strangers all the time and not to be lured by people unknown to them.

In view of the seriousness of the problem of missing children, I wish to propose to the Government to establish a high-powered task force made up of relevant Ministries, departments and agencies to devise an effective and sustainable strategy and plan of action to prevent more cases of missing children in the future.

Such a strategy and plan of action could include the following:-

- (a) Intensify efforts to protect children from crime, violence and all forms of abuse;
- (b) Implement a nationwide sustainable campaign for child protection and safety involving all strata of society.
- (c) Determine the age that children can be left alone;
- (d) Consider the implementation of the provisions under the Child Act 2001 and look into whatever amendments needed to ensure better protection and safety of children.

TAN SRI LEE LAM THYE VICE-CHAIRMAN MCPF

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