



## POST EVENT MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **MRCB PRESENTS EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS TO 25 ORANG DISELIA PARTICIPATING IN THE YELLOW RIBBON: PEKA@MRCB PROGRAMME**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 18 February 2020** – Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB) in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Malaysian Prison Department, has presented employment contracts to 25 ‘Orang Diselia’ (ODS) participating in the Yellow Ribbon: PEKA@MRCB programme.

The presentation ceremony took place today at the MRCB Builders Casting Yard in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur where the 25 ODS will be working on the Sungai Besi-Ulu Kelang Elevated Expressway (Suke) and Damansara-Shah Alam Elevated Expressway (DASH) projects.

PEKA, which stands for *Peluang Kedua Anda*, is a programme that provides training, upskilling and employment opportunities for selected offenders who are at the tail end of their sentence.

The PEKA@MRCB programme is part of the Yellow Ribbon initiative which was introduced in 2018 and spearheaded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, with the support of the private sectors and non-governmental organisations. The initiative is to change the public’s perception of offenders and former offenders especially among the youth, aiming at giving them a second chance in life.

In his welcoming speech, Lok Ngai Hey, Acting Chief Executive Officer of MRCB Builders, a subsidiary of MRCB said, “All the 25 ODS will work at the MRCB Builders Casting Yard in Bukit Jalil for the Sungai Besi-Ulu Kelang Elevated Expressway (Suke) and the Damansara-Shah Alam Elevated Expressway (DASH) projects.”

Lok continued, "MRCB Builders, one of the largest engineering and construction companies in Malaysia is indeed proud to be part of this programme. We strongly believe that PEKA@MRCB programme will create greater awareness for the community in providing ODS a second chance."

Datuk Dell Akbar Khan, Executive Vice President of MRCB cum Programme Coordinator for the PEKA@MRCB added, "We are pleased to highlight that the PEKA@MRCB programme has generated a lot of interest and support since its inception in August last year. Since the official launch of this programme in November last year, it has been progressing well. The commitment to learn from each other and keep up with developments will certainly allow us to achieve our next paradigm shift in community corrections."

Dato' Haji Abdul Aziz Abdul Razak, Deputy Director General (Reintegration) of Malaysian Prison Department commented, "The collaboration between the Malaysian Prison Department and MRCB is designed to assist the ODS with a successful transition to the community after their release. Community acceptance is one of the key factors to the success of the reintegration process. The ODS will be trained and equipped with relevant skills and knowledge while undergoing the PEKA@MRCB programme."

Dato' Haji Abdul Aziz further added, "Currently there are 90 ODS involved and are working at three different locations. They are aware of the advantage of this programme as it gives them a second opportunity to enhance their skills and to integrate back into the society. At the same time, this programme will benefit the industry in increasing the local workforce and reducing our dependency on foreign labour."

Lok Ngai Hey presented the contracts of employment to the 25 ODS witnessed by Dato' Haji Abdul Aziz Abdul Razak and Datuk Dell Akbar Khan.

At the same event, MRCB also sponsored the cost of furniture worth RM31,780 for the 'Industrial Transition Home - Sungai Buloh Prison' under PEKA@MRCB programme to house the participating ODS.

The 'Industrial Transition Home - Sungai Buloh Prison' is provided by the Malaysian Prison Department to house the ODS to further improve and ensure the smooth running of the programme. All the ODS that are involved in this programme are housed in the settlement block inside the Sungai Buloh Prison. The items sponsored included beds, lockers, pillows and mattresses. It is a concerted approach by MRCB to offer support and help make their lives more comfortable during their stay in the transition home.

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#### **About Yellow Ribbon: PEKA@MRCB**

The PEKA@MRCB programme is part of the Yellow Ribbon initiative which was introduced in 2018 and spearheaded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports with the support of the private sector and non-governmental organisations. The initiative is to change the public's perception of offenders and former offenders especially among the youth, aiming at giving them a second chance in life. PEKA is an extension of the Yellow Ribbon programme.

PEKA that stands for '*Peluang Kedua Anda*' provides employment opportunities for the selected offenders who are at the tail end of their sentence. These offenders, referred to as 'Orang Diselia' (ODS) are selected by the Malaysian Prison Department after a thorough selection process.

The objectives of the PEKA@MRCB programme are;

1. To create awareness and generate acceptance to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of ODS aged 18 and 55 by building up their skills in construction work, and in turn provide them an opportunity to pave their way to be integrated back into society.
2. To assist the ODS to regain their confidence and change society's negative perception of them.
3. To reduce the risk of the ODS re-offending, by providing skills, knowledge and experience which will help them secure employment and allow them to earn a living after they are released from prison.
4. To reduce Malaysia's dependence on foreign workers in the construction industry.

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For more information, please contact:-

Nik Surina Suria

Corporate Communications, MRCB

Contact Numbers: +603 2786 8034/+6013 367 6488/E-mail: niksarina.suria@mrcb.com

Address: Level 30, Menara Allianz Sentral, No. 203, Jalan Tun Sambanthan, Kuala Lumpur Sentral, 50470 Kuala Lumpur