

# Community Learning Centres: FGV's Commitment to Respecting the Rights of the Child and the Right to Education



**KUALA LUMPUR, 23 October 2020** - FGV Holdings Berhad (FGV) is committed to respecting the rights of the child and their right to education.

In line with such commitment, FGV has taken the initiative to invest RM5 million in establishing 11 Community Learning Centres (CLC) in Sahabat and Kinabatangan in Sabah. The CLCs function as alternative learning centres for children who are not enrolled in formal education. The project which began in 2018 is expected to be completed in 2021 when four more CLCs in Kalabakan and Yapidmas will be operational.

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The CLCs are equipped with basic facilities for learning and teaching such as classrooms, desks, chairs and blackboards. The teachers are fully qualified and workers who are interested will be trained as teaching assistants.

FGV's Group Chief Executive Officer Dato' Haris Fadzilah Hassan stresses that, "Education is paramount to a child's development. It is a fundamental human right that should be enjoyed by every child, and therefore FGV is committed to ensuring that our workers' children who reside in our plantations have equal access to education."

"As most of our plantation workers in Sabah are from Indonesia, FGV is working closely with the Indonesian Embassy, the Indonesian Consulate in Tawau, as well as the Private Education and Special Education Sector of the Sabah State Education Department to jointly organise the CLCs. With this close cooperation, the CLCs have been recognised by both the governments of Malaysia and Indonesia," Haris Fadzilah further added.

The Indonesian Embassy in Malaysia through its Consulate in Tawau also provides teaching aids, syllabus, textbooks and teachers who are accredited by the Indonesian Education Ministry, for the CLCs.

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Bapak Sulistijo Djati Ismojo, the Indonesian Consul in Tawau highlighted that “FGV’s move to establish alternative learning centres for the children of Indonesian workers is greatly appreciated and shall contribute to strengthening relations between the government and the private sector in both countries.”

“FGV’s efforts should be emulated by other palm oil players as part of their commitment to human rights,” he added.

There are currently 1,046 students enrolled in the 11 CLCs. From that number, 876 are at the primary level and 170 at the secondary level.

**End**