



## PRESS RELEASE

Date: 16 June 2023

### **Alignment of Para Athletics & Para Swimming Sports Governance**

Para Swimming and Para Athletics are 2 out of the 10 sports under the direct control of International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and in 2021, IPC decided that all IPC Sports shall be released to be under control of an International Federation by the end of year 2026. On 13 June 2023, IPC announced that UK Sport and British Paralympic Association (BPA) shall assist with the transfer of governance and the creation of independent bodies for the sports of Para athletics and Para swimming.

These 2 sports contribute about 60% of the medals offered at major games like Paralympic Games, Asian Para Games and ASEAN Para Games. The government acknowledges this fact and recently the High-Level Committee (Jawatankuasa Peringkat Tertinggi) chaired by Deputy Prime Minister YAB Dato Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi issued 7 directives for the development of sports in our country, of which Directive No.2 calls for the focus on development of swimming and athletics sports.

In Malaysia, Para Athletics has its own association known as Malaysia Para Athletics Association (Persatuan Olahraga Para Malaysia) and is all ready for membership with a new International Para Athletics Federation in the near future. Whereas, Para swimming has been under the care Malaysia Swimming Federation (MAS) who is internationally aligned to FINA, a body not associated with Para swimming sports. Therefore, there is a need for National Para Swimming Association to be formed in Malaysia to take over the management of Para swimming in the country and to be prepared for the eventual membership with a newly, to be formed, international federation.

In line with these international developments, Persekutuan Renang Para Malaysia (PREPMA) was formed and approved by Pesuruhjaya Sukan Malaysia (PJS) on 3 November 2022 and they have 8 affiliated state Para swimming associations. PREPMA has been accepted into PCM as a member. Being the legal custodian of IPC Sports, PCM made a decision, in accordance with rules and regulations, to transfer the governance of Para swimming from MAS to PREPMA effective 15 June 2023.

This alignment of governance has to be made to be in line with international developments, to heed to the call of the government to review the focus on swimming and athletics sports and to be prepared for international affiliation when International Federations are formed officially before the end of year 2026.

PCM appreciates and is thankful for the initiatives taken by MAS for the development of Para swimming sports in our country. We hope MAS will continue to provide guidance and assistance for the growth of Para swimming sports for the benefit of our Para swimmers who look forward for a structured pathway for their international successes.

**President  
Paralympic Council Malaysia**