



MEDIA STATEMENT FIRST KICK OFF LIGA WANITA NASIONAL 2025

Kicks Off LIGA WANITA NASIONAL 2025: GAP.MY & LWN Unite to Break the Sports Glass Ceiling in Malaysia

JITRA, Kedah (12 JULY 2025) – Liga Wanita Nasional (LWN), Malaysia's premier women's football league, is proud to return for its fourth season, running from July 2025 to December 2025. Since its establishment, LWN has become a leading platform for nurturing female football talent and expanding the visibility of women in Malaysian sports.

This year's competition features eight elite teams Kelana United FC, Sabah FA, Selangor FC, Kuala Lumpur FA, KL Rangers FC, Young Tigress, Red Eagles Soccer Club, and MBSJ FC each representing the growing strength and determination of women athletes across the nation.

In a bold move to accelerate progress, this season places a strong emphasis on advocacy driven impact, with strategic efforts between LWN 2025 and GAP.MY focused on breaking structural barriers and empowering women across the sports ecosystem.

Holistics Development & Visibility

As the designated Advocacy and Empowerment Partner for LWN Season 4, GAP.MY will play a crucial role in amplifying the voices and experiences of women in sports, while simultaneously fostering an environment that promotes personal and professional growth. Our advocacy efforts will focus on championing equitable opportunities, fair representation and increased recognition for female athletes and professionals with the Malaysian sports landscape. This includes advocating for improved infrastructure, access to resources and supportive policies that enable women to thrive in their athletic pursuits and beyond.

GAP.MY's role in this partnership will centre on advocacy initiatives that support:

- **Policy Reforms**
Advocating for inclusive policies that guarantee equitable access to funding, infrastructure, and leadership roles for women and girls in football especially in Malaysia.

- **Gender-Sensitive Governance**
Promoting fair representation of women in decision making spaces within sports organisations and ensuring that women are not only participants but leaders shaping the future of football in Malaysia.
- **Awareness and Public Engagement**
Amplifying the discourse on the barriers faced by women in sports particularly football including systemic underinvestment, cultural bias, and limited institutional support.
- **Empowerment Pathways**
Highlighting football as a career and leadership pathway for women and advocating for long term support structures for female athletes, coaches, referees, and administrators.

Football as a Platform for Change

GAP.MY believes that the advancement of women in football must go beyond participation. It must include full recognition, equitable support, and institutional accountability. The organisation views this partnership with LWN as a timely and powerful effort to shift perceptions, open opportunities, and strengthen the foundations for a more inclusive sports ecosystem in Malaysia.

This initiative also aligns with Malaysia's national gender equality goals and supports international frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Season 4 of LWN marks a critical step in the movement to break the sports glass ceiling proving that football is not just a game, but a force for structural and cultural change.

A Movement in Motion

The 2025 season is a call to action for all stakeholders fans, policymakers, educators, media, and families to stand behind women in football and equality in sports must no longer be treated as a goal for the future, but embraced as an immediate and shared responsibility.

The future of football is inclusive. The time to act is now.