

## GRACE HOTEL

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## OPINION by ANNA VIVIENNE

THE FAMILY institution is viewed as a group of people sharing the same bloodline, meaning coming from the same great grand parents or further.

It is generally taken for granted that families are just a group of people with the same surname or ancestors.

In our society we generally view family as a haven from the world, supplying absolute fulfillment.

The family need to encourage and generate intimacy, love and trust among one another. When we are struggling with the hustle and bustle of modern society and trying to survive in the rough and tumble industrialized world, we can always retreat and find a place where warmth, tenderness and understanding with our mothers or fathers.

However, with the onslaught of so called modernisation, there do several cases of abuse by an otherwise loving mother, and worse abuse from a father who should be the protector.

The cliché 'home is where they have no choice but take you in' may no longer be applicable, or it should be added on with 'terms and conditions apply.'

Some people who has rosy—sepia-tinted memories of the good old days of strong family ties may wonder at this decay of the family institution, and what can be done to counter this social malaise.

Datin Rahmah Jan Khan, the Chairperson of the Tenom Women's Affairs Council believes that in this part of the world, the family institution is still very much intact.

"We have always been very family oriented and I don't think this norm is gone and or is crumbling. Yes, there are occasions or maybe families that are dysfunctional but it occurs in all society. However that does not mean that the society's overall family institution is crumbling."

"The cause of social ills cannot be determined by a few factors only. The values of a certain family may be part of it, but there are many contributing factors as well. "

"I however believe that we should always stress on the importance of establishing a strong family institution. A strong family institution offers encouragement, support and assistance to its members. With these input in a family, the members will be strong and able to cope with life's tribulations. I believe that the members of such a family institution will become good citizens and leaders."



# The family institution... thriving or defunct