

SPEECH OF MS RAHAYU MOHAMAD, PRESIDENT

PPIS FAMILY DAY 2017

7 JANUARY 2017, 3PM, EAST COAST PARK, CASUARINA GROVE

Assalamualaikum Wr Wb

Minister for Communications and Information, Minister-in-Charge of Cyber Security and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs, Associate Professor Dr Yaacob Ibrahim
CEO, Mr Mohd Ali Mahmood
PPIS Board Members, Staff and Families

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to the inaugural PPIS Family Day 2016.

I am delighted to be here this afternoon, and it feels great to be outdoors! It is heartening to see the enthusiastic response from the whole PPIS family – from board members to staff, and families of board members and staff. Certainly feels like I'm at a big family gathering!

Please join me in showing our appreciation to the organising committee for their hard work in making this event possible. A round of applause please.

Journey with You

Today is an opportunity for PPIS to celebrate another year filled with accomplishments, and it is also a time for our families to come together and have fun in the sun.

Our theme is 'Journey With You' and it is PPIS' way of thanking board members and staff for their hard work and dedication, as well as their families who supported them in their service to the organisation for many years. Young or old, experienced or new, PPIS won't be here without you.

We have grown from strength to strength, and seeing everyone here today made me realize how PPIS has grown through the years.

At the end of today's event, I hope that we will foster a stronger relationship with one another, build new friendships and develop a better understanding of our responsibilities. This is in line with our renewed vision and mission being 'A Compassionate Organisation, Connecting Communities'.

We are very honoured to have Minister Dr Yaacob Ibrahim here today, to help kickstart our 65th anniversary celebrations. Thank you sir for taking time off your busy schedule to be with us.

Celebrating 65 years

I believe that it is appropriate for us to reflect on our journey thus far. PPIS started 65 years ago with 22 women who came together to volunteer their time and efforts to champion the rights of the Muslim women and their families.

Through the years, the association grew and took on more responsibilities in our quest to help Muslim women and in the bigger context, the community, by empowering them with knowledge and skills through our many programmes. Now we have 200 staff - professionals in social service and early childhood education; as well as Bord members who are experts in their own fields.

We have a total of 15 centres islandwide ranging from Social Services to Early Childhood Education.

Our success won't be possible without the support from fellow Singaporeans, our government and the community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who played a part in helping us to help our beneficiaries.

Looking back at 2016

We had many notable achievements last year, with Brother Ali Mahmood being appointed as our first male CEO. I am confident that he would be able to lead the association to greater heights. Under his leadership, we have been conferred the People Developer Certification by SPRING Singapore in July. We hope to continue improving organisational excellence in the coming year.

Our Family Therapy Institute has successfully organised the 'Bridging & Humanifying Family Therapy Practice Conference' back in November and we hope to have more of such conferences as we build our expertise in the area of family therapy!

We also incorporated our subsidiary, 7Oaks Pte Ltd, an education management consultancy whose focus is to enhance the learning journey at our Early Childhood Education Centres.

Since then, we've attained SPARK accreditation for three of our ECE centres namely PRC1, SBV and BBC. We hope to have all our centres SPARK accredited by the end of this year – it'll be a nice 65th birthday gift to ourselves.

We will continue to reflect and identify how we can further improve the quality of services and programmes as well as our internal processes, staff welfare and manpower needs.

Simultaneously we will also monitor current and future needs of the community. We hope to look into areas that will impact women and their families like successful ageing, caregiving and supporting foster families insha'Allah. As witnesses to our commitment, I would like to call out for more volunteers to join us in serving and empowering the community.

Collaborate and Give Back

And as part of our 65th anniversary celebrations, we will have a series of events – most of which will see PPIS collaborating with other like-minded associations.

One of the highlights will be our International Women's Day celebration. We are partnering the Singapore Red Cross and will hold a Blood Donation Drive, and we are hoping for the participation of 65 first-time blood donors! I seek your participation and support when the time comes.

I certainly look forward to more adventures and new opportunities in the coming years! Together we will continue our journey in serving and empowering the community. Finally I hope that all of you have a wonderful day at the beach. Please don't forget to put on your sunblock. Enjoy and have fun!