

**SPEECH FOR MS RAHAYU MOHAMAD, PRESIDENT PPIS**

PPIS INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S DAY  
BLOOD DONATION DRIVE 2017  
4 MARCH 2017, BLOODBANK@HSA

Mdm Halimah Yacob, Speaker of Parliament

Dr Tan Hwee Huang, Assistant Group Director (Ops), BSG

Mr William Sim, Branch Director, Blood Resources, BSG

Mohammad Ali, PPIS Chief Executive Officer

Fellow Board members

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good afternoon to all of you!

**Introduction**

Let me begin by expressing my heartiest gratitude to everyone who has made the effort in joining us here today. I am truly delighted to see not only my fellow PPIS staff but also members of the public and other organisations.

Today's event is something that I hold dear to my heart and let me share with you why.

## **About IWD**

International Women's Day, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2017, is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women around the world. It is also a day where we acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of women who have overcome barriers and harsh predicaments in their lives.

## **Sacrifices of Women**

In Singapore, we are surrounded by women of various ethnicity and social backgrounds, coming together and continuously playing their part in giving back to the community. Whether as a mother, wife or professional, women play an important role every day. Being a working mother myself, I understand the sacrifices that women consciously make in supporting her family. I believe that this is also true of women who might not have their own children but help to care for their parents or siblings and even relatives.

## **Giving Back on our 65<sup>th</sup>**

As part of our 65th anniversary celebrations this year and to commemorate International Women's Day, PPIS is taking this opportunity to rally everyone in giving back to the country by joining us in our blood donation drive and spreading awareness on blood donation. This initiative was recognized as an alternative way of contributing back without monetary means, but more importantly, it helps to save lives. This act of compassion is something we stand by as an organisation where helping people truly does come from the heart.

## **Our Founding**

65 years ago, a group of 22 women identified certain issues faced by Malay Muslim woman in Singapore. They formed PPIS and began a journey of helping women find their voice, empowering them with the right skills and providing opportunities for them to advance. Today, we still remain dedicated to working with women of all ages in carrying out their multiple roles in society. Though issues may still persist, their causes and circumstances are different.

Thus, as a pioneer Muslim Women organisation in Singapore, PPIS recognizes the need to be a source of support to Muslim women in an ever-changing social landscape.

### **Introducing R.E.D**

Today, I am proud to officially announce the addition of a new department in our Head Office, which is The Research & Engagement Department, also known as R.E.D. R.E.D was formed to reinvigorate PPIS' initial cause towards the betterment of our Muslim women and the community. Through Research, we hope to better understand the needs of Muslim women in Singapore and be able to engage them in more meaningful ways. These Engagements also act as platforms for conversations between different parties so that they can have an in depth understanding of our community and our religion. This is of course in line with our Vision of, 'A Compassionate Organization Connecting Communities', as PPIS stays committed to being a positive agent of change for Muslim Women in Singapore.

### **Closing remarks**

With that, I would like to conclude by saying that PPIS wouldn't be what we are today without the support and hard work of the many hearts and minds working together.

In recognition of International Woman's Day and as a vision that I hold dear to my heart, we hope to continue inspiring women, especially the younger generation of aspiring women, towards the betterment of their lives, families, the community and nation.

Once again, thank you for being here today. For those who have donated blood or will be doing so, I applaud you for your commendable gesture in helping to save a life!

Thank you.