

SPEECH OF MDM RAHAYU MOHAMAD, PRESIDENT

PPIS POST HARI RAYA CELEBRATION
SATURDAY 29 JULY 2017, 10 AM – 1.30 PM
MUIS HARMONY CENTRE (AN-NAHDHAH MOSQUE)

1. Good morning Mdm Halimah Yacob, Speaker of Parliament, Dr Hannan Hassan, MUIS Deputy Director, Capacity Building & Interfaith Engagement distinguished ladies and my fellow PPIS Board Members & Staff. It gives me great pleasure to host you at today's PPIS Post Hari Raya Celebration.
2. As an organization, we have held Hari Raya Celebrations in the past. However, this is the first time that we have organised an event bringing together community partners, Faith-Based and Civic Society Organisations. We are proud to say that this Event is in conjunction with our 65th Anniversary. While we are a social service organization not championing inter-faith work, we acknowledge that multi-faith efforts must be embraced by all Singaporeans and that we hope this effort will trickle down to the rest of society for organic and candid interactions.
3. To some of you here, I have personally had good working relationship; while to others joining us here today, I look forward to learning more about you and how we can go forth together on similar aspirations and goals that we share. We hope that today will be a start of that journey where we deepen our understanding and support of one another.

4. In line with PPIS' new vision to be "A Compassionate Organisation Connecting Communities", this event hopes to foster stronger harmony and friendship among women and women organisations from different communities.
5. As mothers, wives, daughters, community workers, women play a key role in shaping the minds of our young and those around us towards social cohesion. As women working for the community, may we connect and support one another in both good and bad times, on social causes and otherwise.
6. With our racial and religious diversity, we are thankful for the peace and harmony we enjoy in Singapore. Yet, we recognize as well, that continued conversations and interactions must take place between our various ethnicities and faiths to dispel misconceptions, heighten appreciation for our differences and instill compassion amongst us.
7. We are heartened that the National Council of Churches stood by the Muslim community, as news of a radicalized young Singaporean woman broke during Ramadhan this year. It has become increasingly important in these vulnerable times, that we, Muslims, make the effort to reach out and allay any concerns that non-Muslims may hold about us. At the same time, we too, wish to have our non-Muslims feel comfortable enough to approach us Muslims, when they find something amiss and need clarification.

8. For PPIS, we offer family therapy and counselling services to any family facing the dilemma of discovering a family member who may have been radicalized. We are also organising a special seminar for non-Muslim social workers and counsellors in September to get a better understanding of the Muslim culture, worldview and daily life. Do keep a look out for it.
9. With the help of volunteer docents from Harmony Centre, I hope that the interactive Learning Journey earlier this morning helped you to understand a little bit more about our faith and how we live it, and that you enjoyed the little ketupat activity along with the tasting of Hari Raya cookies.
10. It is also our hope that you feel comfortable and that this is a safe and free space to ask the questions that you may have regarding our beliefs and our rituals.
11. There will also be an optional segment at the end of the event for you to observe one of our five daily obligatory prayers. Witnessing a congregational prayer may not be one many of you have experienced before and this is an opportunity to do so.
12. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for taking the time to spend your Saturday morning with us. I hope that there can be more engagements for us, the women community, to understand one

another better and to work on common causes regardless of our faith and race.

We hope that you found this morning's session fruitful and that you will enjoy the Lunch.

Thank you.