

**CLOSING REMARKS BY PPIS PRESIDENT, MDM RAHAYU MOHAMAD**  
**PPIS 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER, SUNTEC CITY CONVENTION CENTRE, NICOL ROOM**  
**24 NOVEMBER 2017, 7.30PM**

**“Celebrate, Collaborate”**

Guest of Honour, Deputy Prime Minister, Co-ordinating Minister for National Security and Minister-in-Charge of the Civil Service, Mr Teo Chee Hean,

Minister for Communications & Information, Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs and Minister-in-charge of Cyber Security, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim,

CEO of PPIS, Mr Mohd Ali Mahmood,

Board Members of PPIS,

Distinguished guests,

Staff of PPIS,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

*Assalamualaikum Wr Wb*

Good evening and welcome!

Thank you for celebrating our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with us. Tonight is the grand finale of our year-long celebration to commemorate 65 good years of inspiring women and strengthening families.

## **Celebrate**

1. We began our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at PPIS Family Day in January 2017, at East Coast Park with Dr Yaacob who was our Guest of Honour and launched our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo.
2. On that day, PPIS board, staff and their family members got together and we all celebrated like one big extended family. Seeing the joy on everyone's faces reminded me the importance of our mission of strengthening families – no man is an island and as the saying goes, charity begins at home.
3. Throughout the year, PPIS centres also commemorated our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in their own special ways; PPIS As-Salaam held its maiden Parenting Symposium 'Ibubapa.sg' in February, PPIS Corp Comms Department launched the inaugural International Women's Day Blood Donation Drive in March, PPIS Research and Engagement Department organised a youth outreach event called 'Just the Girls' in April and PPIS Vista Sakinah held its inaugural Stepfamily Day Celebration in September this year.
4. Despite 2017 being our 65<sup>th</sup> year of service, it still proved to be a year of many firsts for PPIS as we continue to expand and grow with the community. Earlier in the year, the Ministry of Social and Family Development appointed PPIS to be the third Centre for Fostering. We gladly embraced the belief and trust placed on us to leverage on our experience in social work as well as working

with the Malay Muslim community. Our centre for fostering, PPIS Oasis began operations in August.

5. The bedrock of our organisation, our Early Childhood Education (ECE) division continues to show good progress. One of PPIS biggest achievements this year was having five of our existing ECE centres attaining the SPARK accreditation in the bid to raise our quality and standards in serving the community. And as we speak, our seventh and newest centre in Jurong West has begun accepting enrolments for December. All this is a testament of the good work our subsidiary 7oaks Pte. Ltd. has done in managing our child care centres.
6. Three years ago, The PPIS Family Therapy Institute was set up to offer the bridge for individuals, couples, and families through family therapy. It was the first amongst the Malay/Muslim Organisations. Today, symmathesy or mutual learning has been the main thrust in their work with families.
7. FTI is constantly building its presence and connection with regional and international practitioners, associations and organisations here in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Hong Kong, Ireland, London, Sweden and Norway as they network, learn and teach about Family Therapy with Asian families. We thank Temasek Cares Ltd for the seed funding.

## **Collaborate**

8. To spread the joy of our celebrations, PPIS remained true to our vision of being A Compassionate Organisation Connecting Communities. This year, we went out of our way to collaborate with like-minded organisations and formed new partnerships.
9. An important partner to PPIS is the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, Muis. Our Mufti, Sohibussamaha Ustadz Dr Muhammad Fatris Bakaram played an important role in clarifying and allaying the community's concern in fostering when PPIS was setting up PPIS Oasis.
10. Our collaboration continued with the Free Friday Wisdom Seminar which saw one of the scholars from the Office of the Mufti, Ustadz Irwan Hadi sharing insights about religious practices in Singapore's context so non-Muslim professionals are able to better understand their Muslim clients.
11. PPIS also partnered the Singapore Red Cross and Blood Bank @ HSA for our inaugural International Women's Day Blood Donation Drive. To promote sisterhood and unity, PPIS chose to celebrate International Women's Day by giving back to the country.

## **Women's Voice**

12. At our International Women's Day Blood Donation Drive, PPIS also launched our Research and Engagement Department (R.E.D). R.E.D was set up to better acquaint and support Muslim women in an ever-changing social landscape through research and engagements. In its first year, R.E.D held two symposiums carefully curated for women in different phases of their lives. Just the Girls! was tailored for teenagers to inspire these future leaders in realising their dreams. Symposium Wanita was designed for PMET women to discover their strengths and learn from one another on how to effectively juggle and balance multiple roles.
  
13. To broaden our understanding on the work towards improving the lives of women, the R.E.D team organised a series of focus group discussions with women of different backgrounds to listen to their issues and concerns. This has led to our presence at the 68th Session of the UN CEDAW Committee held in Geneva last October.
  
14. The session provided us with insights to better appreciate issues affecting our women at home and also those globally, which will help in our pathfinding to future PPIS programmes and services surrounding women. PPIS R.E.D is indeed a milestone in our history books.

15. R.E.D was also formalised by our Patron, the President of Singapore, Madam Halimah Yacob who herself made history the day we Singaporeans welcomed our first Woman President.

16. Let me now share with you, a message from the President of Singapore and patron of PPIS, Madam Halimah Yacob.

<< PLAY PRESIDENT HALIMAH'S VIDEO >>

17. Thank you Madam President for your kind words. You will always be an inspiration and a role model to all women.

<< POSSIBLE ADLIB RESPONSE ON DPM TEO'S SPEECH >>

## **Conclusion**

18. Tonight, we gather once again, for the closure of our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at this homecoming dinner. I am happy to announce that for the first time ever; we will be presenting the PPIS 'Lighting Lives' awards. The award honours volunteers who have tirelessly contributed to PPIS for at least fifteen years. The award also embodies the spirit of PPIS' founding members, whose purpose was to better the lives of women, families, as well as the standing of the community.

19. I am heartened to see all the staff and their families are here, and I must say, the celebrations were well deserved! So team PPIS and families, for all of our hard work and effort, let's give ourselves a thunderous applause! We have indeed come a long way but you and I know, the journey is only just beginning and I am sure PPIS will continue to light lives.

20. I most certainly hope you enjoy the performances this evening, thank you and here's to a memorable evening ahead!

Thank you.