

## MEDIA STATEMENT

**Tuesday, 26 May 2020**

PPIS responds to the Fortitude Budget 2020

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1. The Singapore Muslim Women's Association (PPIS) welcomes the latest measures announced during the Fortitude Budget delivered by Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Finance Minister, Mr Heng Swee Keat earlier today.
2. In support of the government's push for social resilience through digital transformation, PPIS has strengthened our digital capabilities to ensure sustainability of our community services through alternative means, while preparing for post-outbreak to seize new opportunities. In the past few months, our seven Child Development Centres introduced the On-line Learning Experience (O.L.E) where students get to experience 'live' classroom sessions at designated time slots, while our Social Service Centres provided remote services to maintain regular contact with those-in-need.
3. PPIS is also heartened by the government's strive towards digital inclusion and the added support given to low-income families. PPIS President, Mdm Rahayu Mohamad who was at the engagement session with DPM Heng Swee Keat and three other Ministers last Saturday, shared that while PPIS succeeded in building their digital capabilities to enable working from home for all staff during the circuit breaker, not all other smaller Malay-Muslim organisations (MMOs) were able to do so.
4. "As such, the topping of the Invictus Fund to enable smaller organisations to tap on for their digital transformation is a welcomed move," said Mdm Rahayu who added, "I also look forward to the Seniors Go Digital movement as there were some elderly seniors living alone who were able to only speak to their children and grandchildren through telephone calls during the Hari Raya period, when they could interact with them through virtual platforms and experience the celebratory mood."
5. On the dollar-for-dollar matching grant for charities under the Enhanced Fund-Raising Programme, Mdm Rahayu said, "This is a much-needed boost for our fundraising efforts as PPIS is expecting a lower amount of funds raised this year due to COVID-19. Other organisations have also shared their concerns on this. With this matching grant, we are able to assist children and families in need with their fees at our student care centres and preschools as well as to carry out programmes to strengthen families.
6. PPIS also hopes to contribute towards strengthening social resilience by helping to build resilient and forward-looking families despite the uncertainties and challenges ahead. We will play our part to create safe workplaces, safe homes, safe schools and a safe community.