



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Welcome to Our Backyard** – A #OnePPIS initiative by students for migrant workers.

**Singapore, Monday, 8 June 2020.** To welcome their new neighbours, 85 students aged 5 to 6 years from PPIS Child Development Centre in Bukit Batok designed Care Cards for the migrant workers who recently moved into their temporary alternative accommodation at the former German European School Singapore soon, located next to the PPIS centre.

It was announced by the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) that the former school located next to the centre, will be housing healthy workers who have tested negative for COVID-19.

The initiative was a collaborative effort involving not only young students, but also staff and parents of the Bukit Batok centre who came forward to donate food and personal care items such as fruits, biscuits and hand sanitisers. The organisation hopes that these gifts will put a smile on the workers' faces, and provide some comfort that the community is supporting them during these tough times.

President of PPIS, Mdm Rahayu Mohamad said, "PPIS recognises the hard work and contributions of migrant workers who form the backbone of Singapore's economy. We believe that these workers are also part of our community, and as one community, we are committed to protect ourselves and each other against COVID-19.

We would also hope to challenge the Not-in-My-Backyard (NIMBY) narrative. These unprecedented times have given us new experiences that we can learn from, and we would like to nurture the younger generation, namely our students, to foster an inclusive and warm society."

Member of Parliament, Mdm Rahayu Mahzam who officiated the event and presented the welcome gifts to a representative earlier today reiterated, "I am heartened by this initiative by PPIS. The display of care and concern for our migrant workers is commendable. While the pandemic has presented new challenges for us all, I hope we can also take time to empathise with these workers who are also affected and are far away from their loved ones.

Just like how these students from PPIS were able to play their part and contribute through this meaningful initiative, I hope that the community can do the same by observing the necessary precautions and safe distancing measures to protect the community as we navigate through Phase 1."

While PPIS welcomes the latest preventive move by SLA, the organisation would also like to reassure the community, especially parents, that the health and the well-being of staff and children remain as utmost priority. The organisation will continue to observe tighter precautions and implement the new safe management measures with strictest compliance.

This initiative is aligned to compassion, one of the psycho-social values in a framework developed by PPIS to strengthen individuals, families and the community during COVID-19.

### **Guest-of-Honour:**

Mdm Rahayu Mahzam

Member of Parliament for Jurong GRC and Advisor to the Jurong GRC Grassroots Organisations

**Event Details:**

Date: Monday, 8 June 2020

Time: 10am - 10.30am

Venue: Front gate of the facility, 330 Jalan Jurong Kechil Singapore

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**About PPIS**

Founded in 1952, PPIS (Persatuan Pemudi Islam Singapura or the Singapore Muslim Women's Association) is a non-profit organisation focused on services for women, family and children. Our focus is on working with women of all ages in carrying out their multiple roles in society. PPIS runs three core community services namely; Family Services, Student Care and Early Childhood Education (ECE).

With 16 centres islandwide, the services work together to provide quality and holistic support as well as developmental programmes for women and their families across the different phases of their lives.

**About PPIS Early Childhood Education (ECE)**

PPIS opened its first kindergarten in 1983 and was one of the first to introduce a play-based approach. Today, with more than 30 years of experience, PPIS operates seven Child Development Centres with a total of 800 children.

As a premier ECE service provider, we believe that every child is unique and deserves quality care and education. By embracing a learning culture, we strive to nurture individuals into passionate learners and competent leaders of character. Our team consists of educators who are passionate in working with young children and go through continuous professional development, so as to be kept abreast with the latest early childhood initiatives and guidelines.

PPIS Child Development Centre in Bukit Batok is its award-winning flagship centre and also home to 7oaks, its education management consultancy incorporated in 2016.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ppis.sg>.