

MEDIA STATEMENT

31 December 2010

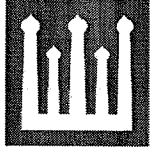
MORE YEAR-END ZAKAT BONUS WORTH \$722,000 FOR POOR AND NEEDY FAMILIES

With a healthy zakat collection of more than \$22 million to-date, the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) has made a “year-end bonus” disbursement of **\$722,000** to **1,890** families under its zakat assistance scheme. This bonus has already been disbursed on 21 December 2010.

2. This bonus, along with the Ramadan bonus which was given in August and the usual monthly financial assistance that Muis provided to these zakat recipients are supplementary to other existing national assistance schemes or funds.
3. Guided by the principle “receive more, disburse more”, Muis has reviewed and increased the quantum of year-end bonus to eligible zakat recipients and their dependants this year. This payout represents a 60% increase over the last two years, from \$450,000 in 2008. For the past two years, the year-end bonus was pegged at 1.5 months of the monthly financial assistance given to the recipients. This year, a total of **1.75 months** was given to eligible zakat recipients placed on both short-term and long-term assistance.
4. Out of the \$722,000 disbursed, a total of **\$163,000** was given in the form of “reqab” (study grant) bonus to these families who have children aged 18 years old and below. This additional bonus was first introduced in 2009 and was very much welcomed by zakat recipients with school-going children. With the firm belief that continuous education of children from poor and needy families can facilitate self-reliance and economic independence in the long run, Muis has also increased the “reqab” (study grant) quantum. This would help to defray the school-related and child-rearing expenses incurred by parents for the coming academic year such as purchase of school textbooks as well as Islamic Learning programmes at mosques.
5. The actual amount of year-end bonus given to each zakat receiving family depends on the quantum of the monthly financial assistance that the family received and the number of children aged 18 and below that the family has. Please see Annex A for an illustration of the amount received.

مجلس ائمة المدارس فيغافورا

Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura
(Islamic Religious Council of Singapore)

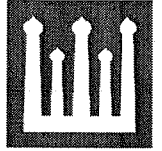


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6. With the higher zakat collection, Muis has also contributed **\$100,000** to the Education Trust Fund (ETF), to assist more low-income Muslim families beyond its zakat recipients. The ETF provides financial assistance for students from low-income households, from pre-school to Secondary 5 levels, studying in pre-school/ childcare centres, full-time government or government-aided schools and full-time madrasah.

7. For more information, the media can contact Ms Ida Iryanee Nooraman, Assistant Director of Social Development at 6359-1111 or email ida@muis.gov.sg. The media can also contact Jamari Mohtar, Head, Corporate Communications at 6359-1434 / 96601087 or email jamari@muis.gov.sg.

MAJLIS UGAMA ISLAM SINGAPURA



ANNEX A

ILLUSTRATION A – BONUS RECEIVED BY ELDERLY COUPLE

Mr J, 65 years old, stays in a 1-room rented flat with his 63-year-old wife, Mdm L. They are childless. Mr J suffers from multiple ailments such as diabetes, high blood pressure and has recently undergone cataract surgery. Mdm L suffers from arthritis, which makes her unable to stand for long hours. The couple receives monthly zakat assistance of \$130 per month from Muis. Apart from Muis' assistance, they also receive monthly assistance from the Community Development Council (CDC).

For the month of December, this elderly couple will receive the following payout:

No.	Type of Payout	Amt (\$)
1	Financial Assistance for Dec	130
2	Year End Grant 2010	227.50
Total Payout		357.50

ILLUSTRATION B – BONUS RECEIVED BY FAMILY WITH 4 SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN

Mdm N, 42 years old, is a single mother earning a monthly salary of \$1,200 as a kitchen helper at a small eatery. She gains custody of all four children following her divorce. Their age ranges from 13, 11, 10 to 7 years old. All of them are studying at a full-time madrasah. Mdm N receives \$150 per month from Muis, apart from actively participating in its Empowerment Partnership Scheme (EPS) for skills upgrading.

For the month of December, Mdm N will be eligible for the following payout:

No.	Type of Payout	Amt (\$)
1	Financial Assistance for Dec	150
2	Monthly Study Grant	220
3	Year End Grant 2010	262.50
4	Reqab Bonus 2010	240
Total Payout		872.50