



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

11 November 2010

### **NEW MUFTI OF SINGAPORE**

Deputy Mufti Mohamed Fatris bin Bakaram will assume the appointment of Mufti of Singapore on 1 January 2011.

Mufti Syed Isa bin Mohamed Semait who has served as Mufti of Singapore since Feb 1972, will retire on 31 Dec 2010. Following his retirement, Syed Isa will serve in a consultative capacity as Advisor to the Office of the Mufti.

Earlier today, at his lunch with the MUIS Council which had supported the appointment, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs Dr Yaacob Ibrahim said that the President of Singapore has approved the appointment of the new Mufti as required under section 30 of the Administration of Muslim Law Act.

Dr Yaacob thanked Mufti Syed Isa for the outstanding religious leadership provided to the Singapore Muslim Community. Dr Yaacob added that Mufti Syed Isa has been widely admired for his principled and progressive guidance of the Singapore Muslim Community through many important issues over 38 years. In recognition of his contributions, Syed Isa was awarded the Public Administration (Gold) Medal in 2009. Dr Yaacob said that Ustaz Mohamed Fatris is suitably qualified to take up the appointment as Mufti of Singapore and to build on Syed Isa's contributions.

President of MUIS Haji Mohammad Alami Musa said that Ustaz Mohamed Fatris has been progressively overseeing more of the duties in the Office of the Mufti since being designated as the Deputy Mufti in April 2004. Syed Isa's kind agreement to stay on as Advisor to the Office of the Mufti and to the Fatwa Committee will further ensure that the changeover is smooth. Haji Mohammad Alami added that MUIS will also be looking into having an occasion for community leaders to adequately show their appreciation to Syed Isa for his many contributions, guidance and the religious leadership that he has provided to the community over the past 38 years.

### **MAJLIS UGAMA ISLAM SINGAPURA**

## Personal Background

Name: Mohamed Fatris Bin Bakaram

Age: 40

## Education

Primary School Leaving Examination (1982)  
Pasir Panjang English Primary School, Singapore

General Certificate of Education (1986)  
Secondary Religious Certification of Education (1986)  
Pre-University Religious Certificate of Education (1988)  
Madrasah Aljunied Al-Islamiah, Singapore

Degree in Islamic Theology (Usuluddin) (1992)  
Al-Azhar University, Egypt

Master in Educational Administration and Management (2002)  
International Islamic University (IIUM), Malaysia

Doctor of Philosophy in Islamic Studies, (Awaiting conferment)  
University of Birmingham, UK

## Career history:

1993	Teacher Madrasah Aljunied
1994 - 1997	Executive Officer, Muis
1997 – 1998	Seconded as Principal of Madrasah Al Irsyad Al Islamiah
1998 – 2003	Mudir ( Principal) of Madrasah Irsyad
June 2003	Head, Office of the Mufti, Muis
2004	Designated as Deputy Mufti, Muis

## Membership of Professional / Social / Other Organisations

Exco Member of Pergas (1993 - 2003)  
Chairman of Masjid Ahmad for 3 two-year term (1998 - 2005)  
Member of Mendaki Board (June 2002 - May 2004)  
Management Board Madrasah Al Irsyad (2003 - 2009)  
Member of the Appeal Board (1999 – 2002)

## Honours and Awards

Mendaki Award (1987)  
Mendaki Award (1989)  
MUIS Training Award (To pursue PhD in Islamic Studies) (2004)

## **Personal Background**

Name : Syed Isa Bin Mohamed Semait  
Age: 72

### **Education:**

Secondary religious education certificate (1958)  
Madrasah Aljunied Al Islamiah, Singapore

Post-secondary religious education certificate (1966)  
Al-Azhar Secondary School, Cairo

Bachelor of Arts (Islamic Juriprudence), 1970  
Al-Azhar University, Cairo

### **Career history:**

1967 – 1968	Interpreter / Translator, Embassy of Singapore in Cairo
1970 – 1971	Naib Kathi, Registry of Muslim Marriages (ROMM)
1972 to present	Mufti of Singapore

### **Membership of Professional / Social / Other Organisations**

Appeal Board Member (1970 - 1971)  
Council Member of Muslimin Trust Fund Association (1974 - 1993)  
Council Member of Inter-Religious Organisation - IRO (1975 -1996),(2000 to present)  
President of IRO (1993/1994)  
Member, National Steering Council on Religious Harmony (2008 to present)  
Member, Presidential Council for Religious Harmony (1992 to present)

### **Honours and Awards**

The Public Administration Medal  
(Bronze, 1982)

The Public Administration Medal  
(Gold, 2009)