



MEDIA STATEMENT

8 August 2011

CONFERMENT OF THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL TO SHAIKH SYED ISA SEMAIT - NATIONAL DAY AWARDS 2011

The Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS) congratulates Shaikh Syed Isa bin Mohamed Semait for being in this year's National Day Honours list and being bestowed the Meritorious Service Medal.

2 Shaikh Syed Isa has made significant and distinguished contributions to the nation. His deep commitment towards building bridges of understanding between different religious groups in Singapore is outstanding. A firm believer of bringing greater good for the larger humanity, he has been a member of the Inter Religious Organisation since 1975 and served as its President in 1994. He also served on the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony since its inception in 1992 up to his retirement in 2010. Shaikh Syed Isa was also a member of the National Steering Committee on Racial and Religious Harmony chaired by Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports. He was a member of the Inter Religious Harmony Circle that developed the Declaration of Religious Harmony, which is now recited at major inter-faith events.

3 The Muslim community is privileged to have Shaikh Syed Isa as the Mufti for almost four decades before he retired last year. Under his religious leadership and guidance, the Muslim community has forged warm and cordial relationships with the various faith communities. As a testament to Shaikh Syed Isa's commitment to inter-faith dialogue and understanding, all mosques in Singapore are active and committed members of the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles. The Muslim community has transformed itself into a peaceful, progressive and forward looking community, preserving its identity and belief, while at the same time contributing to the well being of the nation.

4 Shaikh Syed Isa has touched the lives of Singaporeans of all races and faiths. He is indeed a role model and an inspiration to all of us. We are very proud of his latest achievement.

MAJLIS UGAMA ISLAM SINGAPURA