

**WELCOME REMARKS BY HJ PAIMAN SUPANGAT  
CHAIRMAN, MOSQUE COMMITTEE  
AT THE “BLESSINGS TO ALL” DAY  
AT DARUL AMAN MOSQUE  
ON SATURDAY 16 JULY 2011**

Our Guest of Honour, Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat;  
Minister for the Information, Communication and Arts and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim;  
Muis President, Hj Mohamed Alami Musa;  
Chairman of Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, Mr Poad Mattar  
Community, Faith and Mosque Leaders;  
Our Honoured Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Assalamualaikum and a very good afternoon to all;

Let me begin by thanking everyone for kindly joining us here at the Darul Aman Mosque this afternoon. Our special thanks to Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education, for his kind presence despite his busy schedule. To all our guests, your presence and support this afternoon is of great significance to us as we come together to continue to promote harmonious living through simple acts of doing good for humanity, regardless of race, colour or creed.

**Brief History of the Special Mosque Committee to promote ethos of a community that brings blessings to all**

In January 2005, the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) initiated the setting-up of the Special Mosque Committee to promote the ethos of being a truly compassionate and caring community. This move was brought about by the outpouring of contribution from the community toward the victims of the tragic Asian tsunami. The Committee comprising of mosque chairmen who represent all the five mosque clusters in Singapore got to work to further nurture this spirit of giving within the community. The Committee explores opportunities and organises activities that help to strengthen the attribute that we desire for the Singapore Muslim Community, that is to be a community that brings blessings to all.

Over the years the Mosque Committee has organized many activities both locally and overseas. Chief among these is special collections for humanitarian relief efforts for victims of natural disasters and tragedies. In addition, numerous goodwill building projects were organised locally by the mosques and in many instances, in collaboration with neighbourhood, community and grassroots organizations. These were done to bring hope and cheer to the lives of the less fortunate among us, as well to further enhance bonds of friendship within our multi-racial and multi-religious family.

### **Blessings to All Day**

To further entrench this spirit of always wanting to do good into a lifestyle within the community, the Mosque Committee came up with the “Blessings To All” Day. The first Blessings To All Day was inaugurated in 2008 by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, where all

mosques in Singapore embarked on a Mass Blood Donation Drive, made contributions to the earthquake victims in Sichuan, China and Myanmar, and prepared a meal for over 1000 poor and needy from welfare homes. In 2009, DPM Teo Chee Hean graced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Blessings To All Day where the mosques in South East Mosque Cluster launched a Befriender's Scheme to assist needy families in the Macpherson area. We also organised a Job Fair with the assistance of many parties to provide job information and opportunities for the retrenched due to the economic downturn. And of course food was served for our special guests from the Macpherson neighbourhood.

In 2010, the Blessings To All Day adopted the "Spirit of Caring for People and the Environment" as its theme. The five mosque clusters adopted five welfare homes for a period of one year and planned programmes to touch hearts and bring cheer to those at the homes. We also embarked on a "Greening of the Mosque" Project where all mosques pledged to plant more plants and trees and to save on water and electricity consumption.

We are pleased to report today that all Mosques have actively participated in the greening project. All mosques have achieved the target of having 20 new plants and trees. In fact, many went beyond and 31 mosques went full swing into the "Community In Bloom" project with the collaboration and training by our colleagues in NParks. Darul Aman mosque is one of them and we will witness the completion of the project a little later.

We are also happy to record that all mosques also managed to reduce their water and electricity by between 3 to 5 percentage points. Thanks to the good guide and advice from officers of the National Environment Agency.

We are encouraged by this modest achievement and feel that we need to do more. As such, for this 4<sup>th</sup> Blessings To All Day, we will continue with the “Caring for People and the Environment” theme.

The five mosque clusters will continue with the adoption of the 5 homes and organise activities to provide cheer and companionship for the residents. And of course specially prepared food will also be served.

The project of greening the mosques will also be heightened to get mosques to maintain their greening agenda, get more mosques to go for the “Community in Bloom” project. Of course, the important task of maintaining and achieving further savings in water and electricity usage at the mosque. I’m reminded by PM Lee’s recent emphasis on the need to value our scarce water resource.

In addition, for this Blessings to All Day, we believe the message and the joy of doing good need to be further echoed beyond the mosques. We will do this through the websites of the mosques , embed the message of the need to be blessings to all through our Friday sermons, and today, we will be sending out our “ambassadors of good” who are 100 youth volunteers from the mosque to spread

the message of the joy of doing good. A little later, they will be heading for the nearby MRT stations namely, Paya Lebar, Eunos and Kembangan MRT Stations, to give out lollipops bearing the message of “doing good, feeling good” courtesy of the Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation.

No event will be completed without food. For this segment, all the mosque chairmen and management board members will be serving all our guests from the adopted home and the surrounding vicinity with a simple but specially prepared meal. The women’s wing of all the mosques have played an active part in these preparations and with the sponsorship coming from the Rahmatan Lil Alamin or Blessings To All Foundation.

**In conclusion**, we wish to thank the community for their support in contributing beyond the Muslim community and beyond Singapore. We are happy that we are able to show that we care for many communities out there who are in more dire need than us. We hope that through the humble contributions of the Muslim community, we are also helping to carve out a good name for Singapore.

Our gratitude goes to all leaders of the faith groups, Muslim organisations whose presence today is a testimony that in Singapore, we are ever ready to stand together and work toward for a common goal of a better life for all.

My sincere thanks also goes to all the supporters who have so kindly donated food, time and resources. They include NParks, National Environment Agency, the five Mosque Clusters and Mosque Muslimah for their hard work and contributions.

Finally, our deepest appreciation to Mr Heng Swee Keat for gracing the event this afternoon and Dr Yaacob Ibrahim for being with us to spread the message of always aiming to do good for humanity – to be a Blessing To All, Rahmatan Lil Alamin. Thank you.