

**SPEECH BY MINISTER FOR INFORMATION,
COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS AND MINISTER-IN-
CHARGE OF MUSLIM AFFAIRS, DR YAACOB IBRAHIM,
SINGAPORE ISLAMIC EDUCATION SYSTEM (SIES)
TEACHERS' DAY 2011, SATURDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2011,
1030AM, ORCHID COUNTRY CLUB**

President of MUIS,
Hj Mohd Alami Musa

Sahibus Samaha Mufti of Singapore
Dr Fatris Bakaram

Asatizah and Mosque Chairmen,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wa barakatuh,

Since we are still in the month of Syawal, I wish one and all Selamat Hari Raya, Minal Aidin Wal Faizin.

2. I am pleased to be in the company of our asatizah today. Our community has been blessed to have a group of dedicated and passionate asatizah like you who selflessly and sincerely provide religious and spiritual guidance to our young. Our community appreciates and recognises your contributions.

3. Alhamdulillah, our mosque madrasahs have played a key role in providing part-time religious education, in particular the aLIVE programme to our young. Lessons on the basics of Islam have enabled them to discharge their religious obligations as well as imbibe them with sound Islamic values and beliefs.

4. Our asatizah are also a source of inspiration to our students. Ustaz Nazirudin Nasir, Deputy Director of the Office of Mufti, who is now doing his PhD at the Oxford University in UK, told me that his deep interest in religious education grew when he was studying in Darussalam Mosque Madrasah. He was inspired by his teacher, Ustazah Amaniya Hj Arifin who had encouraged him and provided opportunities for him to learn and share as a youth speaker in many religious events. I am glad to hear that Ustazah Amaniya is still teaching in Darussalam Mosque.

Enhancement to aLIVE

5. We are living in a fast changing environment and a modern society that is plugged to the global world. Our part time madrasah aLIVE program must remain relevant and is able to cater to the needs of the target participants in an ever changing world. I am pleased to note that MUIS has embarked on a review to meet these objectives.

6. Firstly, MUIS will improve the content and introduce contemporary and emerging issues as inserts for teachers to discuss with their students. It will be age-appropriate. More supplementary modules will also be developed. An example of a supplementary module would be in the area of Quranic literacy where it would be tailored to meet the needs of students with differing Quranic literacy standards.

7. The enhancement of content will be made first to the Youth aLIVE programme. MUIS will introduce a new program called Youth aLIVE Discourse Program for youths and working adults below the age of 30. The Youth aLIVE Discourse will cover 3 broad themes, including spirituality, society and lifestyle and aims to engage youths in the form of lectures and discussions on socio-religious topics that concern them. The program will be held twice a year. With this, more youth, even those who have not gone through Youth aLIVE, can participate in such a programme. MUIS will share more details of the programme later.

8. MUIS also plans to enhance the training of teachers to enable them to enhance their capabilities. A detailed and structured training plan, including a mentorship program, has been developed for teachers. This can help the teaching fraternity grow and develop together to produce an excellent teaching and learning experience for teachers and students.

9. Finally, MUIS intends to explore the use of new media as a platform to supplement classrooms teachings to deliver its programme. Online platforms will be used to stretch the learning

beyond the classroom hours through the use of v-logs, educational games and summary videos. Students will be able to revise and explore deeper the topics that interest them on their own via the new platforms.

10. I am confident that the enhancements will ensure that the aLIVE programme remains current and relevant, and is able to address the needs of our young Muslims of the future.

11. In closing, I hope our asatizahs will be given the strength to remain committed in our mission to develop religiously resilient young Muslims of the next generation. May they be given the ease to persevere through the challenges in educating our future generation of Muslims.

12. Thank you

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh