

**SPEECH BY HJ MOHD ALAMI MUSA
PRESIDENT MUIS
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AT MASJID AL-MUKMININ**

Mosque leaders and activists believe that mosques can do more to serve the Singapore Muslim community through strengthening its faith (Iman), increasing its religious knowledge (Ilmu), deepening its ethos of serving others regardless of race or religion (Ihsan) and creating a positive change within the community (Islah). This “4i” approach to take the mosque to greater heights is a vision being shared by some 400 mosque leaders and activists. Our mosques can move to the next higher level of development, if they have the pre-requisites to create the spiritual, emotional and intellectual impact on the community.

2 This shared vision is the result of numerous discussions that had been going on for the last six months involving some 400 mosque leaders and activists. Their discussions focused on the future direction of mosques in Singapore and what mosques need to do for the next 5 years. Inputs from individuals outside the mosque sector had also been incorporated.

3 Muis fully supports the proposed vision, strategies, recommendations and key initiatives developed by the mosque fraternity. The details of the 5-Year Plan will be presented at the once in every 5 years Mosque Convention, to be held on 4 Dec 2011.

4 We can take pride that our mosques today have done a lot to serve the community. Notwithstanding this good state of affairs, mosque leaders believe and feel that they want to work harder to make mosques the centre of socio-religious life of the community. To achieve this and to make mosques the pulse of our socio-religious life, mosque leaders are planning to offer a comprehensive list of socio-religious services from “cradle to grave” to the Singapore Muslim community.

5 In the next 5-years, mosque leaders and mosque volunteers want to develop an “ecology” of mutual support and mutual dependence between mosques and the Muslim community. The community will depend on mosques for all its socio-religious needs while the mosques will depend on the community to sustain themselves.

6 Although there is no such concept as membership of mosques, mosque leaders see the need for each mosque to develop its own support-base of loyal supporters who will populate and prosper the mosque.

7 People will increasingly get connected with each other through social networks. In a future world that is so much about networks, our mosques will not be left behind. They desire to be a “central node” to which many social networks will be connected to. These social networks are diverse as we anticipate that there are many different groups of diverse backgrounds within the community, each having unique interests.

8 Mosque leaders want to work harder in the next 5 years to make mosques hives of socio-religious activities and places where people in

distress or in need will automatically and instinctively go, to seek help. There, they will be comforted with first-line help delivered with warmth and from the heart.

9 Mosques, in the next lap, will therefore endeavour to be a haven where people can seek solace and tranquility. While the very nature of the mosque and its physical ambience will provide this inner peace and serenity, individuals running mosques, through their gracious conduct and pleasant personalities, can enhance the spiritual experience of mosque goers and make their stay in the mosques very pleasant. This is how mosques can create a good base of loyal supporters, as had been seen in some of our mosques.

10 We have to therefore develop the people running our mosques to exude a lot of warmth, compassion and caring love. We will also develop the capacity of mosque people so that they can warmly welcome mosque-goers as well as visitors, attend to their needs and touch their hearts with incredibly excellent service.

11 In their discussions to prepare for the coming Convention 2011, mosque leaders anticipated that life of our community in the coming years will be ever challenging. They strongly feel that mosques must be prepared to do more to support the community and assist those who are encountering challenges in their lives.

12 Mosque Convention 2011 is about positioning our mosques as the Pulse of the Community's Socio-Religious Life, embedding Mosques into

the Consciousness of the Mosque's Psyche and Developing an Ecology of Mutual Dependence between Mosques and the Community. Mosques in Singapore in the next 5 years will build on the good system of governance, processes and programs that we have developed so far. Mosque leaders are also looking back, learning from the strengths of older mosques including our "kampong mosques" of the past and applying these lessons in our mosques today. They want our mosques of the future to incorporate the best, found in the mosques of the past and the present.

13 We needed a suitable theme for the upcoming Mosque Convention 2011. This is because the theme would provide the framework within which the issues that I have raised earlier could be discussed and new ideas generated. With this in mind, we have carefully chosen the theme of Mosque Convention 2011 to be "Enhancing Spirituality, Guiding the Community and Changing Lives – In an ever Challenging World". May Allah guide us in our thoughts and actions in wanting to better serve the community.