



EMBARGOED UNTIL SATURDAY 1 APRIL 2017

1 April 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMUNITY IN REVIEW 2017

A COMMUNITY AT THE CROSSROADS:

BRIDGING SOCIAL DIVERSITY TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES

**Seminar Discusses Community Interactions and How They will Evolve in the New
Economic Landscape**

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1. The recent report by the Committee on the Future Economy and the Singapore 2017 Budget announcements drew attention to an uncertain economic landscape with the emergence of disruptive technology. The new environment inevitably generates disparity amongst some groups, which will progress faster than others. As such, there is a need to constantly build bridges within communities to ensure that the challenges of the diverse socioeconomic outcomes are mitigated while social cohesiveness and inclusivity do not deteriorate. To discuss how this can be done, the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP), together with its research subsidiary, Centre for Research on Islamic and Malay Affairs (RIMA), is organising the 17th Community in Review seminar titled, *A Community at the Crossroads: Bridging Social Diversity to Overcome Challenges*, on **Saturday 1 April 2017 at 9.30 am at Ballrooms II and III, Singapore Marriott Tang Plaza Hotel (320 Orchard Road)**.
 2. The seminar aims to gain insight into how community interactions and stratifications could evolve in the given social and economic conditions. It also attempts to provide the academic's and practitioner's perspectives on their observations of these interactions and how the Malay/Muslim community can better prepare itself for the future economy.

3. The seminar comprises two sessions: a panel discussion involving three invited speakers who will be discussing on the theme, followed by a closed-door dialogue session with Guest of Honour, Mr K Shanmugam, Minister of Home Affairs and Law. The three speakers are Dr Tan Ern Ser, Associate Professor of Sociology at the National University of Singapore; Mr Abdul Rohim Sarip, Managing Partner of legal firm, A Rohim Noor Lila & Partners; and Mr Akbar Kader, Vice-President 1 of the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SMCCI).
4. Dr Tan will discuss the achievement gap between Singapore Malays and their non-Malay counterparts and recommend solutions for the challenges of social mobility. Mr Abdul Rohim will share his observations of community interactions based on his vast experience of volunteering in various organisations and the Malay/Muslim business fraternity in Singapore in relation to economic conditions. Mr Akbar will speak on how the community's small and medium enterprises can capitalise on industry developments to thrive in the future economy.

END

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Saturday 1 April 2017

PROGRAMME

- 9.00 am Registration
- 9.30 am Welcome Address
Mr Abdul Hamid Abdullah
Chairman, AMP Group
- PART I: ENHANCING COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS AND
SOCIOECONOMIC PROGRESS IN A COMPETITIVE FUTURE
ECONOMY**
- Community Interactions and Outlook for the Future***
- 9.45 am Mobility Game(s): Implications for Young Malays and the Future of the Malay
Community in Singapore
Dr Tan Ern Ser
Associate Professor, Sociology
Academic Convener, Singapore Studies, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
National University of Singapore
- 10.00 am Impact of Economic Slowdown on Volunteerism: Bridging the Divide between
Large and Small Malay/Muslim Businesses
Mr Abdul Rohim Sarip, PBM
Managing Partner, A Rohim Noor Lila & Partners
- The Future Economy: The Survival of the Quickest?***
- 10.15 am Shift and Embrace Change
Mr Akbar Kader
Vice-President 1, SMCCI
Chairman, SME Centre@SMCCI
- 10.30 am Question & Answer Session
- 11.15 am Break

PART II: A COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS

Dialogue with Guest of Honour (GOH)

11.30 am

Address by GOH

Mr K Shanmugam

Minister

Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Law

Session is closed to the media

11.50 am

Dialogue Session

1.00 pm

End