

**SPEECH BY MR AMRIN AMIN, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND HEALTH, AT THE SINGAPORE MUSLIM EDUCATION FUND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY ON SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2018, 1PM AT THE PARIS RIS EAST COMMUNITY BUILDING**

Dr Ameen Talib, Chairman of the Singapore Muslim Education Fund (SMEF) Management Committee,

Mr Abdul Hamid Abdullah, Chairman of the AMP Group,

Mr Mohd Anuar Yusop, Executive Director of AMP,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good afternoon to you all.

2. Firstly, I would like to thank our friends from the Singapore Muslim Education Fund (SMEF) and the Association for Muslim Professionals (AMP) and for inviting me to be part of today's ceremony.

3. I am very encouraged by the work of SMEF in offering a helping hand to deserving students. When the awards were first given out in 2013, there were only two recipients. This year, 24 students will be

receiving the awards with a total amount of \$71,000 being disbursed. This is truly a testament to the generosity and kindness of many in our community.

4. This initiative started out as a simple idea from a small group of like-minded individuals who wanted to be of service to their community. Driven by a strong sense of purpose and passion, they rallied for support from others in their community. Their efforts have indeed paid off – making a difference in the lives of many students and their families. I am confident that SMEF will continue to garner the support and resources needed to be an impact on our community.

5. Secondly, I want to congratulate all the award recipients and their families. It is because your hard work, dedication and commitment to pursue your passion that has brought you here today. This is just the beginning of the long journey ahead of you – so keep up the good work!

6. Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill who is largely regarded as one of the important people of the 20<sup>th</sup> century once said “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” Just as you are beneficiaries of the generosity and kindness of many others, I hope that their selfless giving will inspire you to do the same in the future. One day, you too can be an inspiration to the next generation of young people in our community.

7. Once again, congrats to all award recipients! Thank you.

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