



13 March 2019

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **COMMUNITY IN REVIEW 2019**

#### ***ADDRESSING THE DRUG MENACE: RETHINKING PREVENTIVE, REHABILITATIVE AND REINTEGRATION STRATEGIES***

#### **Seminar Discusses Strategies in Tackling the Drug Problem in Singapore**

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1. Singapore's war on drugs dates back to 1971 when the Central Narcotics Bureau was set up, complemented by the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association in 1972 and the passing of the Misuse of Drugs Act in 1973. Over the years, there have been successes in bringing the drug situation under control, but the factors that underpin it are never static. New drug types, the global drug situation, as well as the evolving online world that makes information and substances now more accessible, contribute towards making the vision of a drug-free Singapore elusive. The problems of rehabilitation and reintegration are not detached from the social and economic conditions of a country. For instance, reintegration is impacted when an ex-offender has to declare his or her past convictions while trying to find employment and live a renewed life. The challenges that ethnic minorities face in coping with the broader structural factors such as the lack of social capital are also rarely discussed. To gain deeper insights into what the gaps are in current rehabilitation and reintegration approaches, facilitate reflections on the role of the larger structural factors that make certain groups more vulnerable, and highlight the strategies rolled out by various organisations to better address the ongoing and emerging challenges, AMP, together with its research subsidiary, Centre for Research on Islamic and Malay Affairs (RIMA), is organising the 19<sup>th</sup> Community in Review seminar titled, *Addressing the Drug Menace: Rethinking Preventive, Rehabilitative and Reintegration Strategies*, on **Saturday 16 March 2019 at 9.15 am at Rooms 300-302, Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre (1 Raffles Boulevard)**.
2. Gracing the event as Guest of Honour is Mr Amrin Amin, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health. Mr Amrin will be delivering a keynote address on the current landscape of the drug problem in Singapore.

3. The seminar comprises two panel discussions involving four invited speakers: Assoc Prof Narayanan Ganapathy from the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at National University of Singapore; Dr Justin Lee, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy; Mr Cher Jing En, Associate Psychologist at Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association; and Mr Muhammad Sufian Muhammad Salim, Deputy Head of Home at PERTAPIS Halfway House.
4. Assoc Prof Ganapathy will discuss the conceptual sense-making of the issues faced by ethnic minorities such as the Malay/Muslim community in Singapore in relation to reintegration and recidivism approaches. Dr Lee will share his views on reintegration of ex-offenders into society and how the community at large could partake in the shared responsibility. Mr Cher will address the developments that contributed to review of programmes to remain relevant to contemporary challenges. Lastly, Mr Sufian will talk about challenges faced by social organisations and ex-offenders, as well as programmes on helping ex-offenders reconnect with their families.
5. This year's Community in Review seminar will also feature a visual exhibition, which showcases AMP's recently launched Development and Reintegration Programme (DRP), a reintegration programme which adopts a structured approach for Muslim offenders from incarceration to post-release, as well as incorporates an aftercare component. The exhibition seeks to reveal the insights and emotions of the beneficiaries undergoing the DRP.

END

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**AND REINTEGRATION STRATEGIES**  
**Saturday 16 March 2019**

**PROGRAMME**

8.30 am                      Registration

9.15 am                      Welcome Address  
*Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim*  
*Chairman, AMP Group*

**PART I – A DRUG-FREE SINGAPORE: KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY GUEST OF HONOUR**

9.30 am                      Keynote Address by Guest of Honour  
*Mr Amrin Amin*  
*Senior Parliamentary Secretary*  
*Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of Health*

**PART II – REHABILITATION & REINTEGRATION: FORGING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING**

10.00 am                      Ex-Offenders: Ethnicity, Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Recidivism  
*Assoc Prof Narayanan Ganapathy*  
*Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*  
*National University of Singapore*

10.25 am                      Reintegration: Philosophical Reflections on How Community at Large Can Take  
Responsibility  
*Dr Justin Lee*  
*Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies*  
*Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy*

10.50 am                      Question & Answer Session

11.15 am                      Break

### **PART III – DRUG MENACE: EMERGING TRENDS & PROGRAMMES**

- 11.45 am                      Emerging Trends in Drugs Misuse: New Strategies in Prevention, Rehabilitation and Aftercare  
*Mr Cher Jing En*  
*Associate Psychologist*  
*Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association*
- 12.05 am                      Ex-Offenders: Reconnecting with Family and Society  
*Mr Muhammad Sufian Muhammad Salim*  
*Deputy Head of Home*  
*PERTAPIS Halfway House*
- 12.25 pm                      Question & Answer Session
- 12.45 pm                      End