

**Title: Darul Islah spreads the spirit of Deepavali celebrations for needy families**

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<https://berita.mediacorp.sg/mobilem/singapura/darul-islah-bangkitkan-semangat-perayaan-deepavali-untuk/4535634.html>



Mereka juga antara yang pertama melihat hasil kerja keras

SINGAPORE: The Deepavali celebrations for Ms. Komathy d/o Somasundaram and her family is happier after she was given a new lease of life with the help of a group of former addicts from Jamiyah Halfway House (Darul Islah).

For the past six years, the walls of her three-room flat have been peeling off and household items were not in order. Ms Komathy, 44, lives with her two daughters aged 19 and 21 and her mother who is 74 years old.



*(Image: Jamiyah Singapore)*

Ms. Komathy is a single mother and since 2013, had to stop working as a preschool teacher due to kidney disease. BERITAMediacorp understands that her illness forces her to see a doctor regularly and she also needs to take up to 10 types of medicine every day.

Since then, she has not celebrated Deepavali for years due to financial problems.

"It's not that we don't want to celebrate even in a modest way but to spend the money is a little difficult. So, we choose not to celebrate it alone," said Ms. Komathy.

Each month, Ms. Komathy's family receives financial assistance of around S\$ 1,000 as well as food donations from the Hindu Endowment Board (HEB). Her children are looking for jobs but their efforts have not been successful.

## HOPING TO VISIT FRIENDS, FAMILY FOR DEEPAVALI

However, with her flat selected as the recipient of the Happiness Project organised by Darul Islah, she and her family can celebrate Deepavali this year in a more cheerful atmosphere.



Through the initiative, Ms. Komathy's flat was repainted, equipped with new appliances and furniture such as fans, sofas, beds and cupboards worth more than S\$ 2,000 - courtesy of corporate donors such as the main sponsor **Tan Chin Tuan Foundation**, Cozy Cool Pte Ltd, PHOTOHI Carpet Gallery Pte Ltd and Darul Islah alumni group, IslahCARE. Famous local chef, Mel Dean also contributed in the form of a Deepavali meal for Ms. Komathy and her family.

Ms. Komathy was very appreciative of the gift especially with the new washing machine gifted. According to her, the delivery of the washing machine was timely because her old machine had been damaged for several months and she and her family had to wash clothes using the public washing machine or 'laundromat'. The cost can reach up to S\$ 20 per week.

"I am very happy. Now I have the festive spirit to celebrate Deepavali with my family after many years. We will celebrate. We feel like this is a new home and we are all very excited. Maybe we will try to invite guests after so long, maybe friends of my children, my friends and relatives too," said Ms. Komathy who chose her new bed as her favorite furniture.

## **EXPERIENCE CAUSES THE NATURE OF CARING FOR THE NEEDED GROUP**

Also present to give the final touches to the 'Rangoli' decoration in front of Ms. Komathy's house were Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Jurong GRC Member of Parliament, Dr Tan Wu Meng.



*(Image: Jamiyah Singapore)*

They were also among the first to see the hard work of the four residents of Darul Islah and an alumnus from IslahCARE who worked hard for a week to repair and decorate the house. For 'Muhammad' (not his real name), his experience helping to decorate Ms Komathy's house gave him the motivation to continue doing volunteer work when he was released next year.

"At first I was surprised to see the (condition of the) house. We took seven days to clean, paint and decorate the house. The greatest challenge was the cleaning," said 'Muhammad'.

Dr Tan praised the involvement of the residents of Darul Islah in doing charity work because it shows that they can also play a positive role in society.

"It conveys the message that even if you are a former offender, even if you are in trouble, you are not alone. Through your efforts, you can bring change to those around you. And we are very happy that our friends from Darul Islah has come to help the family – a family in Clementi and Jurong," explained Dr Tan.

The 'Project Happiness' effort launched since 2019 will continue to help more people in need.



flatnya terpilih sebagai penerima Projek Kebahagiaan

## Darul Islah bangkitkan semangat perayaan Deepavali untuk keluarga susah

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Oleh:



SYAWAL YUSOFF

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SINGAPURA: Perayaan Deepavali bagi Cik Komathy d/o Somasundaram sekeluarga lebih ceria selepas ia diberi nafas baru hasil bantuan sekumpulan bekas penagih dari rumah peralihan Darul Islah Jamiyah.

Sejak enam tahun lalu, cat dinding flat tiga biliknya menggelups dan barang rumah pula tidak tersusun. Cik Komathy, 44 tahun tinggal bersama dua anak perempuannya berusia 19 dan 21 tahun serta ibunya yang berusia 74 tahun.



(Gambar: Jamiyah Singapore)

Cik Komathy ialah seorang ibu tunggal dan sejak 2013, beliau terpaksa berhenti bekerja sebagai seorang guru prasekolah kerana sakit buah pinggang. BERITAMediacorp difahamkan penyakitnya juga memaksanya untuk kerap berjumpa doktor dan beliau juga perlu makan sehingga 10 jenis ubat setiap hari.

Dia berkata beliau sudah tidak menyambut Deepavali selama bertahun-tahun kerana masalah kewangan.

"Bukan tidak mahu menyambut walaupun secara sederhana tapi untuk membelanjakan duit itu adalah sedikit susah. Jadi, kita memilih untuk tidak menyambutnya sahaja," kata Cik Komathy.

Setiap bulan, keluarga Cik Komathy menerima bantuan kewangan sekitar S\$1,000 serta habuan makanan dari Lembaga Endowmen Hindu (HEB). Anak-anaknya sedang mencari pekerjaan namun usaha mereka belum berhasil.

#### MENGHARAP KUNJUNGAN TEMAN, KELUARGA UNTUK DEEPAVALI

Namun, dengan flatnya terpilih sebagai penerima Projek Kebahagiaan anjuran Darul Islah, beliau sekeluarga dapat menyambut Deepavali tahun ini dalam suasana lebih ceria.



Melalui inisiatif itu, flat milik ibu Cik Komathy itu dicat semula, dilengkapi dengan perkakas serta perabot baru seperti kipas angin, sofa, katil dan almari bernilai lebih S\$2,000 - ihsan penderma korporat seperti penaja utama **Yayasan Tan Chin Tuan**, Cosy Cool Pte Ltd, FOTOHI Carpet Gallery Pte Ltd dan kumpulan alumni Darul Islah, IslahCARE. Cef tempatan terkenal, Mel Dean juga turut memberi sumbangan berupa sajian hidangan Deepavali bagi santapan Cik Komathy sekeluarga.

Cik Komathy sangat menghargai pemberian itu terutama sekali dengan mesin pencuci baru yang dihadiahkan. Menurut beliau, pemberian mesin pencuci baju itu adalah tepat pada masanya kerana mesinnya yang lama sudah beberapa bulan rosak dan beliau dan keluarga terpaksa mencuci pakaian di mesin pencuci awam atau 'laundromat'. Kosnya pula boleh mencecah sehingga S\$20 setiap minggu.

"Saya sangat gembira. Sekarang saya ada semangat untuk sambut Deepavali bersama keluarga setelah bertahun lamanya. Kami akan beraya sakan. Kami rasa ini seperti rumah baru dan kami semua sangat teruja. Mungkin kami akan cuba undang tetamu setelah sekian lama, mungkin kawan-kawan anak-anak saya, kawan saya serta saudara mara juga," kata Cik Komathy yang memilih katil barunya sebagai perabot kegemarannya.

#### PENGALAMAN TIMBULKAN SIFAT PRIHATIN TERHADAP GOLONGAN MEMERLUKAN

Turut hadir memberikan sentuhan akhir kepada hiasan 'Rangoli' di depan rumah Cik Komathy ialah Menteri Kanan Tharman Shanmugaratnam dan Anggota Parlimen GRC Jurong, Dr Tan Wu Meng.



(Gambar: Jamiyah Singapore)

Mereka juga antara yang pertama melihat hasil kerja keras empat penghuni Darul Islah dan seorang alumni dari IslahCARE yang bertungkus lumus selama seminggu untuk memperbaiki dan menghias rumah itu. Bagi 'Muhammad' (bukan nama sebenar), pengalamannya menolong menghias rumah Cik Komathy memberinya semangat untuk terus melakukan kerja-kerja sukarelawan apabila dibebaskan pada tahun depan.

"Pertama kali kira macam terkejut macam tengok rumah-rumah orang susah inilah kan. Jadi apabila dalam tujuh hari ini kita bersihkan, ada cabaran dialah. Kita dengan mereka, minta tolong sikit, habis kita cat rumah mereka, bersihkan tembok-tembok semua," kata 'Muhammad'.

Dr Tan memuji penglibatan penghuni Darul Islah dalam melakukan kerja-kerja kebajikan kerana ia menunjukkan bahawa mereka juga boleh memainkan peranan positif dalam masyarakat.

"Ia menyampaikan mesej bahawa walaupun anda bekas pesalah, walaupun anda sedang susah, anda tidak sendirian. Menerusi usaha anda, anda boleh mendatangkan perubahan kepada orang-orang di sekeliling anda. Dan kami sangat gembira rakan-rakan kami dari Darul Islah sering datang membantu keluarga-keluarga di Clementi dan Jurong," jelas Dr Tan.

Usaha 'Project Happiness' yang dilancarkan sejak 2019 akan diteruskan untuk membantu lebih ramai golongan memerlukan.

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