

Title: House was 'lit up' for Deepavali
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Please see the full article here: <https://www.beritaharian.sg/setempat/rumah-lebih-bercahaya-sempena-deepavali>

BEFORE the Deepavali festival this weekend, the atmosphere at Ms Komathy d/o Somasundaram's house was livelier after being given a new look by some residents of the Jamiyah Halfway House (Darul Islah). With the living room and bedrooms cleaned and repainted, Ms Komathy - who lives with her mother and her two daughters - is eager to invite their family and friends in conjunction with the celebration.

Yesterday, Senior Minister Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam visited Ms Komathy's family with Darul Islah's residents and staff to see the transformation of the house located at Clementi Avenue 2. Also participating in the visit was Dr Tan Wu Meng, Member of Parliament for Jurong GRC.

Commenting on the efforts by the residents and staff of Darul Islah, Dr Tan said there were many efforts provided by the government, but there were also many carried out by the community to help those in need.

"It has brought a variety of individuals with different backgrounds and beliefs together. It also sends the message that during this challenging period, no one should walk alone. Besides, it sends the message that wherever you are in this journey of life, you can still help others and make meaningful changes," added Dr Tan.

The effort is part of Project Happiness organised by Jamiyah Halfway House (Darul Islah) to provide opportunities for former offenders to help renovate the homes of the needy ahead of the festive season.

"After a few years, we will celebrate this celebration with great joy. Previously, my family and I did not really care to celebrate Deepavali because I was not healthy. But with a house that looked more cheerful, it made me happy and eager to celebrate this special day," said Ms Komathy, 44, who has diabetes causing complications to her kidney and liver.

One of the residents of Darul Islah, Muhammad (not his real name), said he was happy to help those in need, especially during special festivals.

"When I entered this house for the first time, I was a little surprised by the condition of this house. In the last few days, we painted and cleaned the walls of the house. When I saw that they were happy, I was overjoyed to be able to contribute to their joy in conjunction with the Deepavali celebration," he said.

Rumah lebih 'bercahaya' sempena Deepavali

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MENJELANG perayaan Deepavali hujung minggu ini, suasana di rumah Cik Komathy Soma-sundaram lebih meriah selepas diberi wajah baru oleh beberapa penghuni Rumah Peralihan Jamiyah Darul Islah.

Dengan ruang tamu dan bilik yang dibersihkan dan dicat semula, Cik Komathy – yang tinggal bersama ibunya dan dua anak perempuannya – ghairah mahu menjemput keluarga dan rakan-rakan mereka sempena perayaan itu.

Semalam, Menteri Kanan Encik Tharman Shanmugaratnam telah menziarahi keluarga Cik Komathy bersama penghuni dan kakitangan Darul Ihsan untuk melihat transformasi rumah yang terletak di Clementi Avenue 2 itu.

Turut menyertai lawatan itu ialah Dr Tan Wu Meng, Anggota Parlimen GRC Jurong.

Mengulas mengenai usaha oleh penghuni dan kakitangan Darul Islah, Dr Tan berkata terdapat banyak usaha yang disediakan pemerintah, namun terdapat juga banyak yang dijalankan masyarakat untuk membantu mereka yang memerlukan.

"Ia telah membawa pelbagai in-



TAMBAH KEGEMBIRAAN: Encik Tharman (*tiga dari kanan*) menziarahi benefisiari 'Project Happiness', Cik Komathy (*empat dari kanan*), di rumahnya di Clementi, semalam. Turut melawat keluarga itu semalam adalah (*dari kanan*) Dr Isa Hassan; Naib Presiden Kanan Jamiyah Singapura, Dr H M Saleem; serta Dr Tan (*kiri*). – Foto BH oleh TIMOTHY DAVID

dividu dengan latar belakang dan kepercayaan yang berlainan bersama. Ia juga menghantar mesej bahawa semasa tempoh mencabar ini, tiada yang harus berjalan sendirian.

"Selain itu, ia menghantar mesej

bahawa di mana sahaja anda berada dalam perjalanan hidup ini, anda masih dapat membantu orang lain dan melakukan perubahan yang bermakna," tambah Dr Tan.

Usaha itu merupakan sebahagi-

an daripada *Project Happiness* (Projek Kebahagiaan) yang dianjurkan Rumah Peralihan Jamiyah Darul Islah bagi memberi peluang kepada bekas pesalah membantu mengubahsuai rumah golongan yang

memerlukan menjelang musim perayaan.

"Setelah beberapa tahun, kami akan meraikan perayaan ini dengan meriah.

"Sebelum ini, kami sekeluarga tidak kisah sangat untuk meraikan Deepavali kerana saya tidak sihat. Tetapi dengan rumah yang kelihatan lebih ceria, ia membuat saya gembira dan tidak sabar mahu meraikan hari istimewa ini," kata Cik Komathy, 44 tahun, yang mempunyai penyakit kencing manis dan komplikasi buah pinggang dan hati.

Salah seorang penghuni Darul Islah, Muhammad (bukan nama sebenar), berkata beliau gembira dapat menghulurkan bantuan kepada mereka yang memerlukan terutamanya semasa perayaan yang istimewa.

"Ketika masuk rumah ini buat kali pertama, saya agak terkejut dengan keadaan rumah ini. Dalam beberapa hari ini, kami telah mengecat dan membersihkan tembok rumah bersama rakan-rakan lain.

"Apabila saya melihat mereka gembira, saya tumpang rasa gembira kerana dapat menyumbang kegembiraan mereka sempena sambutan Deepavali kali ini," ujarnya.