

**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.

