

*Embargoed till after delivery  
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**OPENING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT HALIMAH YACOB AT THE  
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MUSLIMIN TRUST FUND  
ASSOCIATION (MTFA) DIALYSIS CENTRE (MDC) ON SATURDAY, 24  
MARCH 2018, 10.00AM, AT NORRIS ROAD**

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Dr Abdul Rahim Leyman,  
President of Muslimin Trust Fund Association (MFTA)

Management Council of MTFA

Distinguished Guests

MTFA Staff

Good morning,

It gives me great pleasure to be here to officiate at the opening of the MTFA Dialysis Centre.

MTFA currently provides a wide range of services to the community – from supporting students through bursaries, to taking care of orphans, to providing burial services. This time, MTFA is embarking on an initiative to provide community healthcare to all Singaporeans, particularly renal patients in need of financial assistance. I commend MTFA for this effort. The MTFA Dialysis Centre is an excellent example of how a community organisation is marshalling its resources to provide assistance to the underprivileged. With 13 dialysis machines, the centre will be able to serve 78 needy patients.

Which is why the increasing incidences of Singaporeans developing diabetes is a worrying trend. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has highlighted in last year's National Day Rally that diabetes is a serious concern. The nation has waged a war against diabetes.

The MTFA has embarked on the initiative to provide community healthcare to Singaporeans. We can do more to raise the awareness of renal failure, such as educating people on diabetic prevention.

Prevention is our best defence against diabetes. At an individual level, we can play our part by paying attention to our food choices and making sure we exercise regularly. Simple steps such as choosing dishes that are "lower in calories", taking our coffee in the "kosong" form, or taking the stairs instead of the lift, can go a long way in helping us stay healthy.

We also need to start listening to our bodies. Going for regular health screening is important as it can help you to detect the onset of chronic conditions like diabetes. For those who have diabetes, going for follow-up with your regular family doctor as well as making

lifestyle changes and taking your medication as advised by your doctor can help to reduce your risk of developing diabetes-related complications.

Once again, on behalf of the beneficiaries, let me express appreciation to MTFA for starting this ground-up initiative of setting up the MTFA Dialysis Centre. It is yet another milestone in MTFA's journey in helping the underprivileged in Singapore.

Thank you.

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