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**SPEECH BY SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
MR SIDEK SANIFF, AT KHADIJAH MOSQUE MANAGEMENT BOARD
(LPM KHADIJAH) MANAQIB CEREMONY HELD ON THUR 19 OCT
2000 AT 8 PM HELD IN KHADIJAH MOSQUE**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Assalamua'laikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

National Archives of Singapore

1 All praise to Allah for giving me good health such that I am able to be here tonight with all of you in this Manaqib ceremony.

2 I am heartened to know that Khadijah Mosque is gearing up to face the challenges that new opportunities will present in the future. Apart from the conservation of the existing mosque building, Khadijah Mosque is undergoing structural renewal to have extensions in the form of two 2-storey buildings

and one 4-storey building. By the year 2002, it will then have a new complex-like look. At the present moment, Khadijah Mosque Management Board (LPM Khadijah) is undergoing a strategic change to constantly update and upgrade themselves in order to keep up with times.

3 A mosque will always be an important institution for a person's spiritual development. Conventional programmes to meet these basic needs will continue to be put in place. However, in a world of rapid and dynamic changes, we must also be fully prepared so as to maximise the opportunities that are abounding in the 21st century. This calls for a more dynamic drive to improve the educational and skills level of every Muslim individual.

4 Mosques can play an important role in helping to address issues that affect the future of the Muslim community. I encourage members of the Khadijah Mosque Management Board (LPM Khadijah) to plan and carry out programmes to cater for both the spiritual and worldly needs of the Muslims. The types of programme to be carried out will largely depend on the profile of the target group. Creativity of every member is a critical factor in ensuring the effectiveness of each programme.

5 There is also a need to tap the jemaah's potential to help the mosque to make an impact as an agent of change. Jemaah are our captive "customers" and in most cases, ever willing to extend a helping hand. Every individual has his or her own strengths and through their commitment, involvement and contributions, mosques will then be able to fully optimise the resources that are already available and thus have the potential to play an instrumental role.

6 Jemaah must realise and be aware that they too have to face the challenges that mosques will encounter. They must be prepared to enhance their knowledge and skills through personal development and improvement programmes, and give unconditional support so that mosques will be able to facilitate this life-long learning process.

7 As a whole, the Muslim community must be more confident, self-reliant and able to adapt to the changing circumstances around them. The Muslim community must be willing to learn and to share --- these are the pillars of progress.

8 I look forward for the day this project will be completed and may it be blessed with Allah's Guidance and Protection.

Wassalam.

Ministry of the Environment

18 Oct 00

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