

Embargoed until 19 August, 3pm



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**MEDIA ADVISORY ♦♦ MEDIA ADVISORY ♦♦ MEDIA ADVISORY ♦♦ MEDIA ADVISORY**

14 August 2024

To News Editor

### **STRENGTHENING INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING AMONG YOUTHS**

*Interfaith Network @ North West provides a unique opportunity for youths to engage religious leaders to understand and discuss faiths in a safe space*

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Over 100 Secondary One students from Hwa Chong Institution will satisfy their curiosity and be able to discuss topics about Islam and other religions, in a safe space, at the upcoming **Interfaith Network @ North West** programme. Held at **Masjid Al-Iman** on 19 August, the engagement is part of North West Community Development Council (CDC)'s ongoing efforts to promote Inclusive Communities through strengthening the social fabric and building religious harmony. Students joining the Interfaith Network @ North West who are young and still learning about interfaith practices particularly those outside of their own, have a safe platform to build a deeper understanding of one another's religious beliefs and to embrace diversity.

## Embargoed until 19 August, 3pm

Religious leaders from various religious organisations (ROs) will be invited to attend the event and to share their knowledge with the students as well.

2 In partnership with Masjid Al-Iman which will play host, and OnePeople.SG, North West CDC has curated a programme where the students go on an informative guided tour featuring four key stops: (i) the Ablution Area, where students will observe and learn about the ritual of cleansing practices essential for prayer; (ii) the Main Prayer Hall, to understand the central space for congregational prayers, (iii) Our Community Pantry, a place where worshippers and donors contribute food items to support those in need regardless of race or religion; and (iv) the Women's Prayer Area located on a separate floor of the mosque. The programme will culminate in a Dialogue led by Ustaz Muhammad Khaider Bin Rohani, Head of Community Engagement & Outreach from Masjid Al-Iman, and **Mayor of North West District, Mr Alex Yam**. By encouraging conversation within a safe space, the students will stand to gain deeper insight into both Islam and the commonalities as well as differences of the different faiths in Singapore (see Annex A for Media Programme).

3 Sharing about North West CDC championing Interfaith engagements in the community, Mayor Alex Yam says, "Everyone has a part to play in building and maintaining the racial and religious harmony that we are proud of today. Through our series of Interfaith Network @ North West engagements, we hope to educate our youths by providing them a platform to have an open conversation to clarify any misconceptions and stereotypes associated with people of various faiths, and nurture them to be more understanding of other religious beliefs and practices"

4 Ustaz Muhammad Khaider Bin Rohani from Masjid Al-Iman, believes that providing opportunities to learn about one another's faiths is a crucial part of building religious harmony among the different communities. He adds: "We are honoured to partner North West CDC in the

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Interfaith Network series, and find it especially meaningful to open our doors to youths and our community. For many of the Secondary One students from Hwa Chong Institution, it may be their first time stepping into a mosque. We hope that the students will have an enriching and meaningful an out-of-classroom experience learning about Islam and the different faiths in Singapore.”

5            This is the sixth edition of the Interfaith Network @ North West, which started during Covid-19 pandemic as a virtual engagement aimed at bridging the gap in awareness and understanding of not only one’s own faith, but also of other faiths in Singapore. It enabled leaders and followers of the different faiths to come together, without fear and prejudice, to appreciate and understand other faiths more deeply. The first five editions were held at a Church, a Mosque, a Monastery, a Hindu Temple, and the most recent one was a combined session hosted by a Church as well as two Taoist Temples (see Annex B for Fact Sheet).

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## **Media Invitation**

Media is invited to **Interfaith Network @ North West** at Masjid Al-Iman on 19 August 2024. A media interview with the following spokespersons could be arranged subject to availability. See below for details of the media event.

- Mr Alex Yam, Mayor of North West District
- Ustaz Muhammad Khaider Bin Rohani, Head of Community Engagement & Outreach of Masjid Al-Iman
- Students from Hwa Chong Institution

## **Interfaith Network @ North West**

**Date:** Monday, 19 August 2024  
**Media arrival:** 2.30pm  
**Venue:** Masjid Al-Iman  
10 Bukit Panjang Ring Road  
Singapore 679943

## **Contact Person for Media:**

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## **Enclosed:**

- 1) Annex A – Media Programme for Interfaith Network @ North West
- 2) Annex B – Fact Sheet on Interfaith Network @ North West
- 3) Annex C – Media FAQs (Appended separately)

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## **About North West Community Development Council (CDC)**

The North West District comprises Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC, Nee Soon GRC, Sembawang GRC, Holland-Bukit Timah GRC, and Bukit Panjang SMC.

The Community Development Councils (CDCs) were established to build a tightly knit, compassionate and self-reliant community. North West CDC works closely with various community and corporate partners to strengthen Singapore's social fabric; and encourages the more able and successful to come forward to help the less successful, and to foster greater sense of community ownership and self-help among the residents.

We develop cohesive and resilient communities, through growing networks, promoting volunteerism, fostering collaboration, cultivating social innovation.

### **Mission**

#### **(a) Aggregator of Needs and Resources**

To help the less fortunate through local assistance programmes

#### **(b) Builder of Capabilities and Capacities**

To bond the community through projects & programmes to bring them closer to one another

#### **(c) Connector of Communities**

To develop strategic partnerships with corporate and community partners to better serve our residents

### **Five Communities**

#### **i. Caring Communities**

Encourage a giving culture and uplift the lives of residents through social support programmes and networks

#### **ii. Healthy Communities**

Promote healthy lifestyle, encourage residents to bond and take charge of their own health

#### **iii. Inclusive Communities**

Strengthen social fabric by embracing and involving different segments of society

#### **iv. Learning Communities**

Promote lifelong learning mindset for personal and professional development

#### **v. Sustainable Communities**

Cultivate an eco-friendly lifestyle and building a green environment for our future generations

**Interfaith Network @ North West**

**Monday, 19 August 2024  
10 Bukit Panjang Ring Road  
MEDIA PROGRAMME**

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<b>Time</b>	<b>Programme</b>
2:30pm	Media arrival
3:00pm	Arrival of Mayor Alex Yam
3.10pm	Introduction of the Mosque and Etiquette
3.15pm	Commencement of Tour  1. Sharing of Ablution (Level 1) 2. Sharing at the Main Prayer Hall (Level 1) 3. Sharing of Our Community Pantry (Level 1) 4. Sharing of Women's Prayer Area (Level 2)
4.10pm	Welcome Address by Chairman, Ridzwan Bin Abu Bakar
4.15pm	Mayor's Address
4.20pm	Dialogue and Q&A session
5.25pm	Presentation of Token of Appreciation
5.30pm	End of Programme

**Fact Sheet - About the Interfaith Network @ North West**

The Interfaith Network @ North West encourages faith institutions to host open houses for diverse religious communities to join in and learn about one another's faith. Through such visits, the initiative aims to introduce participants to the different faith traditions in their own religious institution and provide a networking platform to build meaningful relationships and forge future collaborations.

The initiative aims to achieve three key outcomes:

- (i) Enhance understanding between religious leaders and followers, and the community
- (ii) Strengthen bonds and build trust amongst the different religious groups
- (iii) Foster partnerships amongst stakeholders (North West CDC, Grassroots Organisations, OnePeople.sg and Religious Organisations)