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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**EMPOWERING LEARNING FAMILIES, REALISING ASPIRATIONS  
YAYASAN MENDAKI RESEARCH SEMINAR II**

After months of intensive research and analysis, two MENDAKI reports that focus on social capital support, understanding and helping low-income families in the Malay/Muslim community will be presented to a wider audience. Both studies are an exercise in empowering the disadvantaged, whose perspectives we do not often get to hear at the national level.

Dr Mathew Mathews from the Institute of Policy Studies (NUS), will be sharing features on the Family Excellence Circle (FEC), which is a social support network for parents to interact, exchange ideas, share best practices on how to cope with daily challenges and embrace life-long learning. He will be joined by Dr Caroline Brassard from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (NUS), who will also be shedding light on the lives of low-income Malay households in order to understand their vulnerability to shocks, daily challenges and needs, as well as their aspirations and perceptions about the future.

Minister for Communications and Information and Minister-In-Charge of Muslim Affairs, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim will be gracing the event as Guest-of-Honour.

Your reporting crew is invited to cover the event. Details are as follows:

<b>Day, Date,</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Saturday, 25 April 2015</b>
<b>Time</b>		<b>9.00am – 12.30pm</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI)</b>
		<b>Event Hall 2-2</b>
		<b>11 Eunos Road</b>
		<b>Singapore 408601</b>

**Yayasan MENDAKI Research Seminar II**  
*'Empowering Learning Families, Realising Aspirations*

**Saturday, 25 April 2015,**  
**9.00am - 12.30pm**

**Event Hall 2-2, Lifelong Learning Institute,**  
**11 Eunos Road 8, Singapore 408601 (near Paya Lebar MRT)**

**Programme Outline**

Time	Programme
9.00am	<b>Registration and Refreshments</b>
9:25am	<b>Arrival of Minister Dr Yaacob Ibrahim</b> <i>Minister for Communications and Information, Minister-In-Charge of Muslim Affairs and Chairman of Yayasan MENDAKI</i>
9.30am	<b>GOH Opening Remarks</b>
9.40am	<b>Presentation of Tokens of Appreciation</b>
9:45am	<b>Presentation 1</b> <b>Living on a Tight Budget in Singapore:</b> <b>A Qualitative Study of 25 Malay/Muslim Low-Income Households</b> by Dr Caroline Brassard Adjunct Assistant Professor Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS
10:25am	Break
10:45am	<b>Presentation 2</b> <b>Empowering Low-Income Families:</b> <b>Documenting the Contributions of the Family Excellence Circle</b> by Dr Mathew Mathews Senior Research Fellow Institute of Policy Studies, NUS
11:25am	<b>Q &amp; A Session and Panel Discussion</b>
12:30pm	End of Event