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MEDIA STATEMENT

MALAY/MUSLIM SELF-HELP GROUP YAYASAN MENDAKI PAYS TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CHAIRMAN DR YAACOB IBRAHIM

1. Yayasan MENDAKI pays tribute to Dr Yaacob Ibrahim who will be retiring as Chairman of Yayasan MENDAKI's Board of Directors on 30 April 2018. As the Chairman since 2002, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim has guided MENDAKI in ensuring that the Malay/Muslim community is supported in education and is empowered to be a community of excellence.
2. Under Dr Yaacob's leadership, the flagship MENDAKI Tuition Scheme (MTS) grew in strength and numbers. A re-branding in 2012 saw MTS widening its educational assistance to 10,000 students annually from 6,000 previously. In 2014, a review of the curriculum resulted in a signature pedagogy that allows MENDAKI to offer a unique education initiative designed to fit the profile of its students. Dr Yaacob also ensured that higher education remained affordable to at least two-thirds of the Malay community. The Tertiary Tuition Fee Subsidy (TTFS) eligibility adopted the per capita income criteria in 2011 and the income tiers were increased in 2018 so that more students can benefit.
3. A firm believer that education is the key social leveller, Dr Yaacob was the backing behind MENDAKI's public outreach and engagement to ensure the community are educated about the changing social and economic landscape and are informed of the opportunities to upskill themselves. His advice was also instrumental in forming MENDAKI's sharpened focus on 3 pillars - School Ready, Performing in School and Future Ready.
4. Under his watch, the Future Ready Unit in MENDAKI was formed in 2015 in the midst of national conversations regarding economic disruptions, to raise awareness within the community about opportunities in the future economy. Always believing in the potential of our youth, Dr Yaacob strongly supported MENDAKI's engagements with students and encouraged them to be involved in social impact programmes. As an off-shoot from the Community Leaders Forum that Dr Yaacob formed in 2003, CLF LABS initiative was created in 2011 to promote the development of new ideas from youth-led

groups through seed funding. This resulted in many new initiatives that support the growth of the community.

5. In the School Ready pillar, Dr Yaacob emphasized the importance of a strong and early foundation in children's development. He connected with parents in the regular Brunch with MENDAKI, sharing personal experiences and thoughts on the importance of parents' influence in their children's learning and how parents themselves must be role models for lifelong learning. MENDAKI's message of "Raikan Ilmu" or "Celebrate Knowledge" resonates with Dr Yaacob's own conviction on the importance of knowledge.
6. Wanting to ensure that MENDAKI's services remain close and accessible to the community, Dr Yaacob guided the formation of MENDAKI satellite centres in the heartlands. In less than 5 years, MENDAKI will have its 7th satellite centre operational by this year end. It is also with his direction that MENDAKI is deepening capability in research and analytics; and facilitating digital transformation for Malay/Muslim organisations.
7. Dr Yaacob's passion to see MENDAKI, the Malay/Muslim organisations and the community as a whole as always relevant, progressive and achieving excellence is evident. His involvement with the community predates MENDAKI as a volunteer during his undergraduate days. His involvement in MENDAKI is a reflection of this passion, having started from MENDAKI early days as a tutor volunteer, chairing several committees such as the Chairman of the S1 programme and the Under Achievers in early 1990s to becoming the chairman of the institution. To MENDAKI staff, he has always been an approachable mentor who is generous with his time and wisdom. We are indebted to his guidance and inspired to constantly do better by his strong sense of empathy for the underprivileged. His personable nature strikes a chord with all levels of staff. MENDAKI wishes to thank Dr Yaacob Ibrahim for his invaluable contributions over the past 16 years and for leaving us with an inspiring legacy.
8. The Chairman of MENDAKI's Board of Directors will be succeeded by the incoming Minister-in-charge-of Muslim Affairs.

Rahayu Buang (Mdm)
Chief Executive Officer
Yayasan MENDAKI