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# Media Release

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**To: News Editors**

20 November 2021

## **'BEING HUMAN' INTERFAITH DIALOGUES TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY SPIRIT AMONGST SINGAPOREANS**

*Interfaith and interracial bonding initiatives in the South East District*

**Singapore, 20 November 2021** – South East Community Development Council (**South East CDC**) continues its efforts to support the national agenda of building a harmonious interreligious society while harnessing our religious diversity. To support the efforts of promoting deeper understanding between the different races and faiths, South East CDC had set up a Resilience task force, that seeks to create safe spaces for dialogues and to converge efforts of our community partners to strengthen social cohesion in this ever-changing environment. This network of partners include religious organisations, grassroots organisations, government agencies, schools and social service agencies. By providing social brokerage and connecting these partners, the Resilience task force hopes to promote harmony within the community.

Held virtually, earlier today, the 'Being Human' Interfaith dialogue was titled, ***Being Good: Finding Meaning and Beauty through Cooperation***. It considered feedback from the pilot session which engaged the participants on pertinent and contemporary issues relating to faith and racial matters. The safe space allowed participants of diverse backgrounds to share their personal experiences and perspectives based on the core components of the theme, focusing on our common humanity.

Being Human Interfaith Dialogue was officially launched by **Mr Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East district**. Mayor Fahmi highlighted, "Through the dialogue, participants can expect safe spaces to discuss or simply air views on sensitive topics. Prior to any action to maintaining harmony amongst us, such platforms are essential to connect Singaporeans from various backgrounds to start conversations, acknowledging and learning about one another through creative approaches. This way, we will be able to pay more attention linking the hearts and minds and the fundamental good of being human."

Mr Mohamed Irshad, Vice-Chairperson of the Resilience task force shared that "South East CDC plays the role of a social broker hence, we aim to achieve our task force goals by providing platforms that builds on and showcases the collective efforts of our partner network. Facilitating interfaith and interracial collaborations will help to strengthen the bonds amongst all of us." One of such initiative is the 'Being Human' Interfaith Dialogue.

The 'Being Human' dialogue was first piloted in February 2021 and was received positively, especially from students of various schools around the South East district. The entire 'Being Human' dialogue series is targeted at youths, with the intention of consciously developing the next generation of leaders. Providing them the safe space for discussions is aimed at empowering them with accurate knowledge to impart to others within their community.

The earlier session had a breakout component guided by a team of facilitators and a panel discussion with speakers pivoting on cross-cultural and interfaith matters.

<b>Panellists</b>	<b>Faiths</b>
Ustazah Lina Sakinah Salim	Muslim
Dr Alfred Pang	Catholic
Mohamed Imran Mohamed Taib	Muslim

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**About South East Community Development Council**

South East CDC was set up on 24 November 2001. It oversees the Marine Parade Group Representative Constituency (GRC), East Coast GRC, Mountbatten Single Member Constituency (SMC) and MacPherson SMC, and serves a population of about half a million residents. At the helm of South East CDC is Mayor Fahmi Aliman, who leads the team in fulfilling the CDC's function – an Aggregator of Needs and Resources, Builder of Capability and Capacity in Partners and Networks and Connector of Communities. South East CDC initiates and manages programmes in collaboration with both community and corporate partners, so as to nurture a vibrant and self-reliant community.

More information on South East CDC at [www.cdc.gov.sg/southeast](http://www.cdc.gov.sg/southeast), be our Facebook fan at [www.facebook.com/secdc](http://www.facebook.com/secdc) or be our Instagram follower at [www.instagram.com/southeastcdc](http://www.instagram.com/southeastcdc).