

News, wherever you are.

Stay updated with our WhatsApp/ Telegram service. Send JOIN to 93276484 on WhatsApp, or 94806129 on Telegram.

We set you thinking
TODAY

TUESDAY 09 JULY 2019

Cut through the clutter.

Subscribe to our email newsletter for the day's essential news, straight to your inbox.

Singapore

World

Big Read

Opinion

Visuals

Brand Spotlight

8 DAYS



More opportunities being explored for public to visit Istana: President Halimah

By TAN WEIZHEN



President Halimah Yacob during the Deepavali Istana Open House on Sunday (Oct 22), her first since becoming head of state last month, with her husband Mr Mohamed Abdullah Alhabshee. Photo: Nuria Ling/TODAY

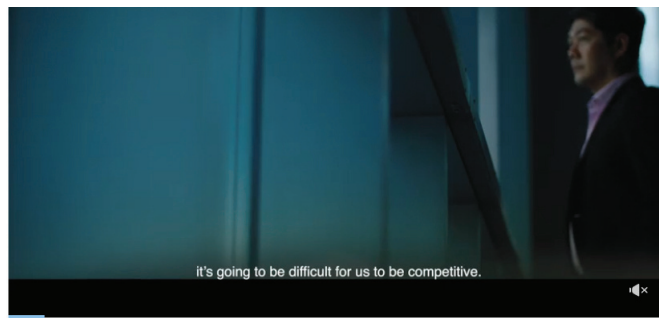
Published 22 OCTOBER, 2017 UPDATED 22 OCTOBER, 2017

327 Shares



SINGAPORE — Ways to make the Istana more accessible to ordinary Singaporeans are being explored, said President Halimah Yacob during the Deepavali Istana Open House, her first since becoming head of state last month.

“I’m really glad that the members of the public come and explore the grounds, and really understand more about our heritage and the Istana, and the Presidency,” she told reporters on Sunday afternoon (Oct 22).



inRead invented by Teads

“We will explore more, how to invite more beneficiaries, and groups of varied social service organisations. I think it’s a wonderful idea to make it more accessible to all segments of society. We have ideas... to make it more accessible — not just during the Istana Open House five times a year, but maybe other days as well. We are exploring these ideas, and we will come up with the programmes.”

For the Deepavali Open House, which drew 9,308 visitors, Mdm Halimah invited some members from active ageing non-profit organisation Society for Wings (Women’s Initiative for Ageing Successfully), who were guided around by students from Singapore Polytechnic.

“I think it’s such a beautiful place...So I think there’s what I want to see, the Istana becoming more accessible to ordinary Singaporeans,” said Mdm Halimah, who was accompanied by her husband Mohamed Abdullah Alhabshee.

Activities for the public on Sunday included band performances, guided tours by the National Heritage Board and face painting.

Madam Halimah mingled and took photos with members of the public, in addition to observing band performances and touring the booths.

Student Sabarina Vijay, who was with her friends, said she would visit more often if possible.

“I would like to come, but the programmes have to appeal to my age group,” said the 18-year-old.

Domestic helper Dwi Indarni, 29, was on her first visit to the official residence and office of the President of Singapore.

“I’m here because it’s the first time this President is at the Open House. But I’d like to come more often to explore.

There are so many interesting areas like the Spice Garden and the swan lake,” she said.

ADVERTISEMENT