

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

**TWO-THIRDS OF ELIGIBLE NATIONAL MONUMENTS TO RECEIVE FUNDING FROM
NATIONAL MONUMENTS FUND 2020 AND 2021**

Singapore, 12 November 2021 – Walk along Beach Road in the historic Kampong Gelam district, and Hajjah Fatimah Mosque would likely catch your eye with its iconic tower that resembles the Neoclassical steeple of the first Saint Andrew’s Church.¹ Did you know that the mosque is nicknamed the ‘Leaning Tower of Singapore’, thanks to the slight tilt of its minaret tower, and is one of few mosques named after a woman?

Working with the community to upkeep Singapore’s built heritage

2 Upkeeping one of the oldest mosques in Singapore, which includes preserving its façade, is a resource intensive effort. Hajjah Fatimah Mosque will be receiving funding from the *National Monuments Fund (NMF)* for restoration and maintenance works. Launched in 2008, *NMF* is a co-funding scheme administered by the National Heritage Board (NHB)’s Preservation of Sites and Monuments (PSM) division, and aims to assist eligible monument owners² in the preservation and maintenance of their historical buildings, structures and sites. Please refer to **Annex A** for more information on *NMF*, and **Annex B** for the full list of eligible National Monuments.

3 Since its launch, the scheme has grown³ and evolved to better serve the changing needs of our National Monuments and their owners and occupiers. In 2015, a new category of *Maintenance Fund* was introduced, in response to feedback from monument owners and occupiers, to cover the regular maintenance works for monuments. The *Maintenance Fund* complements the *Restoration Fund* – the former helps monument owners carry out regular maintenance works which can assist in identifying and diagnosing issues commonly seen in

¹ The first Saint Andrew’s Church was struck by lightning twice before it was declared unsafe, and had to be demolished for the construction of the Neo-Gothic style St Andrew’s Cathedral we see today.

² *NMF* applications are open to National Monuments that are owned and managed by non-profit or religious organisations. 31 of the 73 National Monuments meet the above criteria.

³ The *NMF* started with a first tranche of S\$5 million in 2008, dedicated to monument restoration works. In 2015, a second tranche of S\$11.77 million was launched, supporting both restoration and maintenance works, and in 2019, a third tranche of S\$15 million dedicated to the Restoration category was launched as well.

aging buildings early, such as structural faults, and pre-empt subsequent restorative works, while the latter helps cover rectification works that restore the spirit of the buildings' historic fabric.

4 In response to feedback from monument owners, the scope of the *Maintenance Fund* was further expanded over the years to include more qualifying works. These include the maintenance of vegetation, from weeds to trees, which are on or in close proximity to a monument that would pose a risk to the monument and public safety, as well as the commissioning of arborist reports. A new addition this year is necessary measures that provide basic protection of the monument from lightning or fire risk, such as fire protection systems and equipment relating to fire-safety. Such are eligible works that are aligned with the latest fire safety standards as regulated by the Singapore Civil Defence Force.

5 Ms Jean Wee, Director of the PSM division, NHB, said: "The preservation of our National Monuments is an opportunity to work closely with our stakeholders where we hope to forge strong relationships as preservation can only be successful with their support. Since the grant started in 2008, we have worked closely with monument owners to better understand and address their evolving needs, especially where Singapore's climate has impacted delicate structures. We are grateful for each and every community partnership in caring for these important landmarks, many of which continue to testify to the religious and cultural diversity of Singapore."

2020 and 2021 NMF Award

6 For the period 2020 to 2021, a total of S\$2.24 million is awarded to 20 National Monuments⁴, or two-thirds of monuments eligible for the *NMF*. 65% of them are receiving support for both restoration and maintenance. For instance, Hajjah Fatimah Mosque is a recipient of the *Maintenance Fund* in 2020 as well as the *Restoration Fund* in 2021. The funds will support the minor repair of the mosque's plaster surface as well as waterproofing works to its existing flat roofs area. Mr Abdullah Alsagoff, Mosque Manager of Hajjah Fatimah Mosque, said: "Being a historical and iconic building, Masjid Hajjah Fatimah has an appeal that attracts many people for a multitude of reasons, one of which is its unique architecture.

⁴ In 2020, S\$1.43 million was awarded to 18 National Monuments and in 2021, S\$806,000 will be awarded to 13 National Monuments. Some monuments are recipients of both the *Restoration Fund* and *Maintenance Fund*, and across both years.

Being close to two centuries old, it needs a lot of care. With the grants that NHB has provided for its facade and upkeep, the mosque has been able to continue being a landmark for the community even till today.”

7 The breakdown of *NMF* awards for 2020 and 2021 is as follows:

National Monuments Fund Award 2020		
Type of Fund	Amount (S\$)	No. of Monuments
Restoration Fund	1.09 million	4
Maintenance Fund	337,000	18
Total	1.43 million	18* *All 4 recipients awarded funds under the <i>Restoration Fund</i> are also recipients of the <i>Maintenance Fund</i> .

- In 2020, S\$1.09 million was dedicated to restoration works while S\$337,000 was dedicated to maintenance works. Please refer to **Annex C** for the list of *NMF* 2020’s recipients.

National Monuments Fund Award 2021		
Type of Fund	Amount (S\$)	No. of Monuments
Restoration Fund	702,000	7
Maintenance Fund	104,000	11
Total	806,000	13* *Some are recipients of both funds

- This year, S\$702,000 will co-fund restoration works and S\$104,000 will co-fund maintenance works. Please refer to **Annex D** for the list of *NMF* 2021’s recipients.

8 A first-time recipient of the *Restoration Fund* in 2020 is Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery, which houses one of Singapore’s oldest Buddhist temples that testifies to the spread of Mahayana Buddhism in the region. The monastery will use the funds to erect a temporary roof cover for the entrance hall *Tian Wang Dian* (天王殿; Hall of Heavenly Kings), and carry out further maintenance works with funds awarded under the *Maintenance Fund* in 2021. Mr Chuang Shaw Boon, Chairman, Restoration Committee for Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery, said: “The Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery is a gazetted National Monument, and NHB through its *NMF* grant has provided invaluable financial assistance to the monastery’s preservation and restoration works. It signifies a collaboration that will uphold the legacy and propagate the uniquely traditional architecture of the monastery. This will provide future generations with a real and palpable experience of our rich cultural heritage and in turn instil an innate desire to serve the community.”

9 Another recipient of the *NMF* in 2021 is Maghain Aboth Synagogue, which is a recipient of both the *Restoration Fund* and *Maintenance Fund*. The fifth-time recipient of both the *Restoration* and *Maintenance Funds* will be utilising the funds to repair or replace existing timber roof structures in the building. Mr Reuben Khafi, trustee of the synagogue, said: “Built in 1878, Maghain Aboth Synagogue is the oldest synagogue both in Singapore and Southeast Asia that has been continually used without interruption. It was gazetted as a National Monument in 1998. The Jewish Welfare Board is grateful for the continued support of the NHB in keeping our treasured synagogue in excellent working condition for the benefit of generations to come.”

Please refer to:

- Annex A: About the *NMF*
- Annex B: List of National Monuments eligible for the application of the *NMF*
- Annex C: List of *NMF* recipients in 2020
- Annex D: List of *NMF* recipients in 2021

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About the National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit. NHB's mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the National Collection.

Through the National Collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

About the Preservation of Sites and Monuments division

The Preservation of Sites and Monuments (PSM) division, under the National Heritage Board (NHB) and with advice from the PSM Advisory Board, guides the preservation of buildings, monuments and sites, which commemorates Singapore's heritage as defined under the Preservation of Monuments Act. The PSM division also leads NHB's joint efforts with National Parks Board to list the Singapore Botanic Gardens as Singapore's first UNESCO world heritage site. It also oversees the 100 heritage sites that have been marked by NHB. The PSM division's administration of the preservation gazette is complemented by its outreach objectives to promote a renewed appreciation and understanding of national monuments and their history, and to encourage people to relate to them as sites of memory that convey a sense of place, identity and belonging. To date, 72 structures have been gazetted as National Monuments. For more information on the PSM division, please visit <https://www.nhb.gov.sg/what-we-do/our-work/preserve-our-stories-treasures-and-places/national-monuments-and-marked-historic-sites/preservation-of-sites-and-monuments>.

ABOUT THE NMF

In 2008, the *National Monuments Fund (NMF)* was introduced with a first tranche of S\$5 million, dedicated to monument restoration works. In 2015, in recognition of the growing needs of our National Monuments, and to better support the monument owners in addressing these needs, the *NMF* was given a second tranche of funding of S\$11.77 million.

In addition to its increased funding pool, the enhanced *NMF* in 2015 went beyond restoration to include a new category of funding for maintenance, the *Maintenance Fund* which was allocated S\$2 million from the second tranche (of S\$11.77 million). It aims to ensure that stakeholders conduct regular maintenance work to restrain building deterioration, thereby preventing unaddressed works from snowballing into significant restoration costs. Monument owners will be able to receive funding from PSM for regular maintenance work based on their identified needs. The *NMF* also launched its third tranche of S\$15 million in 2019, dedicated to supporting monument restoration works under the *Restoration Fund*.

To encourage responsible ownership of the National Monuments, the *NMF* is disbursed through a co-funding scheme. Application is open to National Monuments that are owned and managed by non-profit or religious organisations. To apply, monument owners will need to be able to financially co-support the restoration and or maintenance works, and the disbursement quantum is individually assessed based on the severity and urgency of the scope of work required for rectification.

LIST OF ELIGIBLE NATIONAL MONUMENTS FOR NMF GRANTS

1. Abdul Gafoor Mosque
2. Al-Abrar Mosque
3. Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque
4. Armenian Church of St Gregory
5. Cathedral of the Good Shepherd
6. Chesed-El Synagogue
7. Church of Our Lady of Lourdes
8. Church of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9. Church of St Peter and St Paul
10. Church of St Teresa
11. Hajjah Fatimah Mosque
12. Hong San See
13. Jamae Mosque
14. Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery (Former Siong Lim Temple)
15. Maghain Aboth Synagogue
16. Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre
17. Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church
18. Singapore Yu Huang Gong (Former Keng Teck Whay)
19. Sri Mariamman Temple
20. Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple
21. Sri Thendayuthapani Temple
22. St Andrew's Cathedral
23. St George's Church
24. RC Church of St Joseph
25. Sultan Mosque (Masjid Sultan)
26. Tan Si Chong Su
27. Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church
28. Thian Hock Keng (Chong Wen Ge & Chong Hock Pavilion)
29. Tou Mu Kung
30. Ying Fo Fui Kun
31. Yueh Hai Ching Temple

LIST OF NMF RECIPIENTS IN 2020

Note: Some monuments may have been grant recipients in earlier years.

	National Monument	NMF (Restoration) - 4 recipients	NMF (Maintenance) - 18 recipients
1	Al-Abrar Mosque		✓
2	Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque		✓
3	Armenian Church of St Gregory		✓
4	Cathedral of the Good Shepherd		✓
5	Chesed-El Synagogue		✓
6	Church of St Joseph	✓	✓
7	Church of St Peter and St Paul		✓
8	Hajjah Fatimah Mosque		✓
9	Hong San See		✓
10	Jamae Mosque		✓
11	Lian Shan Shuang Ling Monastery	✓	✓
12	Maghain Aboth Synagogue		✓
13	Sri Mariamman Temple		✓
14	Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple		✓
15	St Andrew's Cathedral		✓
16	Sultan Mosque		✓
17	Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church	✓	✓
18	Thian Hock Keng	✓	✓

LIST OF NMF RECIPIENTS IN 2021

Note: Some monuments may have been grant recipients in earlier years.

	National Monument	NMF (Restoration) - 7 recipients	NMF (Maintenance) - 11 recipients
1	Al-Abrar Mosque	✓	✓
2	Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque		✓
3	Armenian Church of St Gregory	✓	✓
4	Cathedral of the Good Shepherd		✓
5	Church of Our Lady of Lourdes		✓
6	Church of St Peter and St Paul	✓	✓
7	Hajjah Fatimah Mosque	✓	
8	Hong San See		✓
9	Lian Shang Shuang Lin Monastery		✓
10	Maghain Aboth Synagogue	✓	✓
11	Sultan Mosque	✓	
12	Tan Si Chong Su		✓
13	Thian Hock Keng	✓	✓