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**MUSLIM CONVERT RELIEVED THAT SHE CAN INHERIT HER ADOPTED
MOTHER'S FLAT**

By Saini Salleh

After waiting for a year, Ms Nur Aniza Abdullah could finally let out a sigh of relief after she was allowed to inherit a 3-room flat in Bukit Batok, left by her late adopted mother.

Despite being an adopted child, the *Hibah Ruqbah* deed done by her adopted mother while she was still alive enabled her to own the flat – the place where she was brought up and at the same time, the place where she took care of her late adopted mother till her last breath.

Ms Nur Aniza received the good news 3 weeks ago when MUIS finally accepted the document pertaining to the *Hibah Ruqbah* deed done by her adopted mother, the late Fatimah Ismail, regarding the transfer of flat ownership to Ms Nur Aniza as valid.

Ms Nur Aniza, aged 44, a Muslim convert whose original name was Christina De Silva said:

“At first I was not confident that I could actually inherit the flat because the Syariah Court had earlier issued a Inheritance Certificate, stating that the flat had to be given to a treasury (*Baitulmal*) because of my status as an adopted child.”

“I keep asking why the *Hibah Ruqbah* deed done by my adopted mother was not recognized.”

“As time passed I was worried of losing my home as I have no other place to stay.”

“However, after efforts of making appeals through sending out letters to the Subordinate Court, Syariah Court, MUIS & HDB with the intention of defending my own personal rights, the *Hibah Ruqbah* deed was finally recognised,” said Ms Nur Aniza, a widow with no child, when she recalled her efforts in trying to change the ownership of the flat since February last year.

The late Fatimah Ismail, a Muslim convert who was of Chinese descent, did not have any biological child with her husband, a Sri Lankan who was also a Muslim convert, when they were married in the 1960s.

She had been sick since 2010 and unfortunately, she gave her last breath in July 2011 at the age of 72.

Her husband, the late De Silva, passed away in 1991 after reverting back to his old religion, Christianity.

The documents that included Islamic Will and the *Hibah Ruqbah* deed was signed by the late Fatimah, Ms Nur Aniza, a lawyer and 2 male witnesses in December 2010.

All the documents were prepared by the owner and consultant of HTHT Advisory Services Pte Ltd, Mr Sadali Rasban, who was also one of the witnesses when the signing took place.

One of those documents mentioned that the late Fatimah wanted to give the flat to Ms Nur Aniza as a form of gift while she was still alive, and how the transfer of ownership would only take place upon her demise.

Following that, Ms Nur Aniza contacted Mr Sadali so as to begin implementing the *Hibah Ruqbah* deed.

Ms Nur Aniza, a kindergarten teacher, planned on transferring the ownership of the flat, of which has sentimental value, to her name soon.