

SPEECH BY MR TEE TUA BA, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE RED CROSS, AT THE LAUNCH OF THE SINGAPORE RED CROSS DAY ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED (JURONG WEST) ON 9 APRIL 2019

Mr Desmond Lee,
Minister for Social and Family Development
Second Minister for National Development
Adviser to Jurong GRC Grassroots Organisations

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning. Thank you all for joining us at today's launch. I wish to thank Minister Lee for his consistent and strong support for the work of the Singapore Red Cross. We have worked very closely with his Ministry and his Constituency to develop and publicise this Day Activity Centre for the Disabled (DAC). I would like to thank him for coming despite his busy schedule.

The Singapore Red Cross turns 70 this year. To many Singaporeans, many know the Singapore Red Cross for its disaster relief efforts. Apart from helping in disasters, we encourage people to donate blood. By 2030, one in four is elderly. We provide TransportAid for the elderly. If left to their own devices, they may not go for their medical appointments.

Besides, we have a long history of caring for the disabled. Back in 1952, the Red Cross Home for Crippled Children, located in Changi, cared for children

with infantile paralysis. As the children grew up, and our residents remained with us, it evolved into the Red Cross Home for the Disabled - Singapore's only home for persons with severe disabilities. We relocated to Family Link@Lengkok Bahru in 2010. We also established a DAC in addition to the residential and respite service we already operated. Last year, the Ministry of Social and Family Development gave us an opportunity to establish a dedicated DAC here, in Jurong West.

Today, you are standing in a space that can comfortably accommodate 39 clients, providing full and half-day daycare options. You will see later, on the tour, that this DAC is equipped with advanced equipment, from therapy tools to a state-of-the-art mechanical hoist system. The environment is specially designed to support and empower persons with severe disability with useful daily living and community living skills, to enable greater independence. Our dedicated caregivers and therapists are constantly and proactively pushing the boundaries to engage our clients in social, recreational and therapeutic activities. These sessions include art and craft, meal preparation, and gardening that will enhance their physical, social and emotional well-being. You can be assured that these sessions are always met with much enthusiasm!

Allow me to share the story of our client, Nurul Syazwani. She was diagnosed with a rare type of Cerebral Palsy at a young age and went to a school for children with special needs. When she became a teenager, Nurul was prone to mood swings and tantrums. Following a fall that fractured her hips, she ended up at our DAC. Fast forward to today, Nurul is a young woman of 23. She is happy, cheerful and calm. Her mother, Mdm Nakia, often sings praises of our

staff for their quality of care. She explains that Nurul has looked forward to coming to DAC every day, for the past six years. She loves interacting with her friends here.

It is through these real-life stories that we appreciate the true impact of our efforts in the communities we serve. And it is the precious Partnerships for Humanity that we celebrate today - at this launch. I'd like to thank our donors, sponsors and volunteers for their unwavering support including:

- The Ministry of Social and Family Development, SG Enable, Social Service Offices
- our neighbours - the Jurong Spring Community Club, Jurong Zone E Resident Committee
- our partners - Dr Collin Ang, Aviva Singapore, The Portcullis Group, Kenn Foundation and Project Blue Star fundraiser, Mr Steven Lau
- In memory gifts from - the family of the late Ms Seah Peck Gee, the family of the late Mr / Mrs Sosamma George & Noëlle George and the family of the late Mr /Mrs D. G. Luke

We are all very grateful for your contributions, and we hope you will continue to journey with us, to uplift the lives of the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community.

Thank you.