

New initiative to enhance racial harmony

PM Lee launches OnePeople.sg to encourage interaction among Singaporeans

A new initiative to enhance racial harmony, OnePeople.sg, was launched yesterday.

Among others, it aims to raise awareness of other cultures, help people be more sensitive when interacting and serve as a one-stop resource centre for information on interracial and interfaith issues.

The formation of this new organisation was launched by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of Central Development Councils (CDC) at River Promenade, Old Parliament Lane yesterday afternoon.

OnePeople.sg is formed after Joint Social Service Centre (JSSC) was revamped to include all five CDCs and five Self-Help Groups including Yayasan Mendaki to pool their resources.

The Management Committee of OnePeople.sg will be chaired by Mayor of Central Singapore CDC and MP for Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC, Mr Zainudin Nordin.

According to Mr Lee, OnePeople.sg will champion efforts to encourage interracial and interfaith relations and understanding here.

“It will also raise awareness of other cultures, help people be more sensitive when interacting and serves as a one-stop resource centre for information on interracial and interfaith issues,” said Mr Lee.

He also stated that the Government will ensure that Singapore remains safe and harmonious and provides opportunities for all to realise their full potential.

“We will also ensure that the minority communities have the space to keep their heritages alive and do not feel pressured by the majority Chinese community.

“We will integrate our population in housing estates and protect common spaces in our schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces, so that Singaporeans have ample opportunity to grow up together, live together and play together,” he said.

However, Prime Minister Lee emphasised that efforts in encouraging better interracial relations and understanding is not the responsibility of only religious and community leaders.

Individuals can each do their part as they go about their daily lives.

“Small things like being sensitive to each other’s needs, bringing one another into our conversations, extending a hand, or having a meal together, will make a difference and leave a lasting impression,” he said.

Mr Zainudin said he hopes to see OnePeople.sg work with more youths and bring on board CDCs and the Self-Help Groups to work more closely together to organise racial harmony programmes.

“Even though there is high level of awareness on racial harmony, we hope to engage at a more deeper level beyond just adorning each others ethnic costumes on Racial Harmony Day,” he said.

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