

REBRANDED AS ONEPEOPLE.SG

Today, Central Singapore JSSC, which was formed 10 years, was rebranded as OnePeople.sg. Its objectives are namely, to strengthen the bonds of people and promote racial harmony.

It will accomplish its new tasks by working in partnership with the 5 CDCs, 5 Self-Help Groups, People's Association and MCYS.

Yesterday also marks the 10th anniversary of CDCs. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was present at the Arts House to unveil the new identity of OnePeople.sg and officiate the opening of the CDC 10th Anniversary Racial Harmony Celebrations, of which a wide spectrum of activities will be organised for the next 2 months.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said: "Over the past 10 years, CDCs have performed well. As an experiment in local administration, the CDCs have proven that when given the authority and responsibility to look after the well-being of the community, it will achieve better results than when affairs are managed centrally by a distant bureaucracy.

He said: "When Singaporeans are aware that they must rely on themselves to contribute to the well-being of the community, they're willing to contribute their time, efforts and money. This kind of community self-help and mutual help will help to strengthen the bonds of Singaporeans and preserve the social cohesion.

He commented: "While the government has promised to ensure the safety and preserve the state of harmony in Singapore, it's inadequate to rely solely on the government so the people have to play their part too."

He said: "Our religious organisations in the community understand that preserving the mutual trust and understanding among our different ethnic groups would require constant care and attention. For instance, the Singapore Buddhist Lodge, Hindu Endowment Board and Jamiyah have been giving away scholarships to students of the lower income groups, regardless of their races and religions."

Central Singapore JSSC, which was formed by the Central CDC and 5 Self-Help Groups had helped to provide social service to needy families, organise projects to promote racial harmony among the youths and allow them to inculcate the right multi-racial values at a young age.

He said: "However, to be able to better promote racial harmony, Central Singapore JSSC would have to be more focused. After discussing with the 5 Self-Help Groups, the 5 CDCs have decided to pool their resources and play a more proactive role in enhancing racial harmony."

Central Singapore district Mayor Zainudin Nordin is the first Chairman of the Management Committee of OnePeople.sg. He said: "OnePeople.sg will serve as an

important resource centre on racial harmony issues such as building a repository of publications, website materials, research thesis, speeches, books, etc which are related to inter-faith and inter-religious issues in Singapore. He added that OnePeople.sg will also work in close partnership with organisations, that deal with youths; particularly, MOE and youth organisations to allow us to reach out to the youths, let them understand our strategies of promoting racial harmony and understand the challenges that they face.”

The 5 Self-Help Groups which have been working with OnePeople.sg are namely, CDAC, Mendaki, SINDA, Eurasian Association and AMP.

Mr Sam Tan, Executive Director of CDAC said: “Promoting racial harmony has always been one of the objectives of CDAC. The formation of OnePeople.sg has created an additional platform for collaboration. He is looking forward to work in partnership with other Self-Help Groups and OnePeople.sg towards new directions for collaboration and identify new activities to work together.

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