

## **A NEW INITIATIVE FOR RACIAL HARMONY**

The Singapore Joint Social Service Centre is reformed. The reformed Centre will bring together the 5 CDCs and the 5 SHGs and will be known as 'OnePeople.sg'.

PM Lee informed of the details yesterday. The reformed organization, will through new initiatives, champion racial harmony. PM Lee was speaking at the CDC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

In his speech, PM Lee also recalled, the formation of national organisations back in 1997. The most daunting task at hand, at that point in time, he said, was to strengthen the foundation of our social fabric. These days, the roles of the CDCs are varied and they are required to ensure flexibility in order to meet changing needs of the community. Apart from community bonding, the CDCs have played an important role by providing opportunities for the public to gain from schemes such as the Workfare Bonus, job opportunities and other benefits.

In order to roll out these benefits to the public, quickly, CDCs had, in the last year, deployed the services of 300 dedicated staff for this purpose. Furthermore, the services of 3000 volunteers were sought to assist, to look into the needs of the public.

PM Lee expressed his wish for the CDCs to continue their efforts in strengthening social cohesiveness and the promotion of harmony. Looking ahead, PM Lee said he would like to see CDCs' playing a greater role in cultivating a more harmonious society.

PM Lee stressed that while the government can look into creating opportunities for all, it is important that we each do our part. It is the quiet instinctive sensitivity to each other that ensures social fabric remains strong and vibrant.

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