

**WELCOME REMARKS BY MR ZAINUDIN NORDIN, MAYOR
FOR CENTRAL DISTRICT, AT THE SINGAPORE HARMONY
MARATHON 2010 ON SATURDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2010 AT
6.30PM AT SRI GURU SINGH SABHA 92 WILKIE ROAD**

A very good evening to:

Our Guest of Honour, Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State
for Community Development, Youth and Sports

Mr Gurdip Singh Usma
Organizing Chairman
Singapore Harmony Marathon 2010

Esteemed Religious Leaders

IRCC leaders

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives great pleasure to be here once again to start the Singapore Harmony Marathon 2010, the 8th marathon since its inception in 1999.

2 Traditionally organized by the Sikh Welfare Council, at the last marathon, the organizers went out to engage several religious organizations and IRCCs to ensure greater participation of non Sikhs. Indeed it was overwhelming to see so many Singaporeans coming to support this run.

3 I am told this year apart from the participation of non Sikhs, the organizers had also tweaked the route to include high visibility locations like Orchard Road and Marina Boulevard. Some of you will have the opportunity to run by the newly built Marina Bay Sands as well.

4 In addition, to signify the celebration of the 10 major religions in Singapore, the organizers had also taken effort to time the run to end on 10th October 2010 at 10.00am at Katong Sikh Temple. I am told my parliamentary colleague A/P Fatimah Lateef will be leading the run at the last sector to the finishing point.

5 In order to strengthen our social bonds, we need many more events like this to bring Singaporeans of all walks of life

together for a common goal. In this regard, I thank the Sikh Welfare Council for this effort and contribution to Singapore's Harmony and at the same time look forward to the next run after this.

Tribute to Mr Gurcharanjit Singh BBM

6 At this point, I wish to pay tribute to the Late Gurcharanjit Singh BBM who was a pillar of strength in organising the Singapore Harmony Marathon, since inception. Gurcharanjit was an exemplary community leader and a passionate advocator of racial and religious harmony.

7 I recall in 2007, when Gurcharanjit first joined as a Board Member of OnePeople.sg, he spoke to me about this Marathon, on how we could make this run not just a Sikh community event, but as an annual platform to promote inter-ethnic and inter-faith understanding and cooperation.

8 I agreed with Gurcharanjit's noble suggestion to jointly organize the run with OnePeople.sg and reach out to all Singaporeans. He immediately went about his task with desire and conviction. Gurcharanjit and his team worked tirelessly and brought on board the IRCCs, grassroots organisations and diverse ethnic and religious groups to join hands with the Sikh community, to participate and support the Singapore Harmony Marathon in 2007. The run proved to be a great success in

forging closer community bonds. Since then, the Singapore Harmony Marathon Run has become an inter-racial and inter-religious event, and is instrumental in demonstrating the solidarity among our diverse ethnic and faith communities.

9 Gurcharanjit was a dear friend, and his passing is a deep loss for all of us. Though he may have left us too soon, I am confident his dedicated efforts to build values of humanity, such as this Singapore Harmony Marathon, will live on for years to come. God bless his soul and may he rest in peace.

10 I wish you all a pleasant evening and a safe marathon.

Thank you.