

Please check against delivery

**SPEECH BY MR NG SER MIANG, CHAIRMAN,
SINGAPORE YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES ORGANISING
COMMITTEE, AT THE NATIONAL ORANGE RIBBON
CELEBRATIONS, ON 18 JULY 2009, AT BISHAN ACTIVE**

Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan
Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports

Mr Gan Kim Yong
Minister for Manpower

Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon
Minister of State, Ministry of Community Development,
Youth & Sports

Mayors

Advisers to Grassroots Organisations

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. A very good evening to everyone. It is my pleasure to be here today as we celebrate racial harmony and cultural diversity in Singapore.

One Year to Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games

2. In a year's time, we will be hosting the biggest event in Singapore's sporting history – the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games.

3. I remember that I first discussed the possibility of Singapore hosting the Youth Olympic Games with Prime Minister at a grassroots event in Bishan in July 2007, and I am grateful for his strong support. We have made good progress in our planning since, and our preparations are on track. Next month, we will have a big celebration at the Padang for the One Year Countdown to Singapore 2010. I would like to extend an invitation to all Singaporeans to join us for this milestone event.

Creating a Memorable Games

4. Our mission for the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games is to deliver a successful Games and create a long lasting legacy for Singapore and Singaporeans, young and old. I would like to thank Minister Mentor for sharing with us his views on how we should organise the Youth Olympic Games. If I may quote what you said in the very evening we

won the bid on 21 Feb 2008: “This Youth Olympics 2010 gives us an excellent opportunity to raise social standards of courtesy, behaviour and hospitality of our people. All those likely to come into contact with the participants should be ambassadors of Singapore for the Olympics.”

5. The Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (or SYOGOC) has been working closely with many Government agencies to make sure that things run smoothly during Games time. I would like to thank Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, for his leadership and support of this effort.

6. Mayor Zainudin Nordin is the Chairman of SYOGOC’s Community Outreach Committee. He is working closely with the other four mayors to bring the Youth Olympic Games to our heartland and bring Singaporeans to the Youth Olympic Games. Working together with the Kindness Movement, we will help raise the standard in courtesy, friendliness, to be helpful and welcoming and present our best face to the world.

7. On behalf of the organising committee, I invite all Singaporeans to join us in the journey to create a memorable Youth Olympic Games for the world.

8. Thank you, and have a pleasant evening.