

REMARKS BY MR ZAINUDIN NORDIN, MAYOR OF CENTRAL SINGAPORE DISTRICT AND CHAIRMAN OF ONEPEOPLE.SG AT THE FINALE OF THE CAMPTeen: YOUTH RACIAL HARMONY AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME 2007 ON TUESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2007, 10AM TO 1PM, AT OUTWARD BOUND SINGAPORE (PULAU UBIN)

Ladies and gentlemen

A very good morning to all.

It is a pleasure to be here with you this morning. To all of you who participated in the CampTeen: Youth Racial Harmony Ambassadors Programme 2007, I hope you had an enriching experience while having a good time.

CampTeen was launched 13 years ago in 1994 by the five self-help groups, namely the Chinese Development Assistance Council, Yayasan Mendaki, Singapore Indian Development Association, The Eurasian Association, Singapore and Association of Muslim Professionals.

OnePeople.sg, which was then known as the Central Singapore Joint Social Service Centre, took over the organisation of CampTeen in 2003.

The objective of CampTeen was to provide a common platform for young people of all races to interact, understand and bond with each other through adventure-based activities, focusing on teamwork, teambuilding and leadership development.

This objective has not changed, but following recent regional and global developments, OnePeople.sg saw a need to review the CampTeen programme to better enhance the cultural competencies of the participants in terms of diversity awareness, mindsets and skills to interact and work well with people of different races and religions and even nationalities.

This cultural competency, the mindset and ability to operate comfortably in

a multi-cultural environment, is essential to be a World Ready Youth who is able to thrive in a global environment.

Thus, this year's CampTeen gives you, the participants, the opportunity to put what you have learnt into practice through the projects that you have conceptualised and will implement. These projects would provide an excellent opportunity for you to gain first-hand knowledge and experience about organising multi-cultural community events and in bringing the community together.

I trust that the ultimate goal of this programme for many participants is the invaluable time spent with friends of all races, working and bonding together to complete the programme activities and later implement your projects as a team. Such bonding embodies the key direction of the OnePeople.sg to unite Singaporeans and create platforms for people to come together through multi-racial and multi-interest activities.

I understand that you will be presenting your ideas for community projects that will aim to promote multi-culturalism and rally other youths in support of the Youth Olympic Games bid. Everyone of you, who have demonstrated ability, passion and commitment in the projects, will have the opportunity be inducted as OnePeople.sg's Youth Racial Harmony Ambassadors and be groomed as ambassadors for the Youth Olympic Games if Singapore does win the bid. I understand that if Singapore does win the bid, we would be expecting some 3,000 young athletes from around the world, and would require some 5,000 youth volunteers in various roles, such as liaison officers for the foreign delegations. Those who are inducted as OnePeople.sg's Youth Racial Harmony Ambassadors would have an advantage in being selected as liaison officers or for other roles for the Youth Olympic Games, as they should already have the pre-requisite multi-cultural mindsets and cultural competence.

Therefore, the journey for you, our young participants, does not end here today. In fact, it is just beginning, as you work together to turn these ideas into reality – and that is where the real challenge lies. Maintenance of racial harmony takes continuous effort. I strongly urge you to seize this opportunity to discover your talents and harness these talents for the community's and the nation's benefit.

My thanks and compliments to the Chief Facilitators, Dr Gan Su-lin, Director of the Centre for Culture and Communication, and Ms Chow Mei Peng, Senior Executive of the Singapore Sports Council, and their team of facilitators from Republic Polytechnic, Chinese Development Assistance Council and Yayasan Mendaki. I also commend the Republic Polytechnic Student Ambassadors who did an outstanding job as assistant youth facilitators, and are excellent examples of what youths can do if they are given the chance.

My congratulations to the facilitators for a job well done, my thanks to the schools and organisations that supported this programme, and to all participants, I hope you'll come back again for more of such activities organised by OnePeople.sg.

Thank You.