

**HOMETEAMNS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER AT  
HOMETEAMNS BUKIT BATOK CLUBHOUSE - SPEECH BY MR  
S ISWARAN, SECOND MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
FRIDAY 24 APRIL 2015, 1915 HOURS**

2nd Minister Masagos Zulkifli, President of HomeTeamNS

Commissioner of Police

Commissioner SCDF

Home Team colleagues and partners

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good evening. It gives me great pleasure to join you to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HomeTeamNS. This evening, we will recognise 46 NSmen who have generously volunteered their time and expertise in the remaking of our HomeTeamNS clubhouses. We will also present letters of appointment to 76 persons who have volunteered to serve in various committees in HomeTeamNS.

## **One Home Team**

2. One month ago, we mourned the passing of our first Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew. The public outpouring of emotion was remarkable and left an indelible impression on our national psyche. Even as we grieved the loss of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, our spirits were uplifted by the unity and spontaneous acts of kindness and selflessness - of Singaporeans from all walks of life and officers from our government agencies, including the Home Team. Our Home Team officers, comprising regulars, NSF's, NSmen and volunteers came together to help out during the period of national mourning.

3. We were inspired by our NSF's and NSmen who worked shoulder-to-shoulder with regular officers, performing many duties such as providing security, traffic and crowd control, as well as emergency medical coverage during the Lying-In-State at Parliament House, the community tribute areas, the State funeral procession and State funeral. NSmen also performed duties as vigil guards during the Lying-in-State and represented the Home Team at the State funeral. Our NSmen willingly stepped forward and volunteered to serve, and many went well beyond the call of duty. We are proud of our NSF's, NSmen and volunteers; you have once again proved that you are an integral part of the Home Team, whom we can count on at all times, especially in the hour of need. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to serve our nation.

## **Our Transformation Journey**

4. HomeTeamNS has been on a journey of transformation over the past decade. In 2005, HomeTeamNS was formed by merging the Singapore Police Association for National Servicemen (SPANS) and Civil Defence Association for National Servicemen (CDANS). The aim was to strengthen the Home Team identity and to pool resources, so as to provide better services and more amenities for Home Team NSmen. Many played important roles in this effort. In particular, I would like to recognise and thank our former colleagues Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee, Mr James Tan, Mr Khoo Boon Hui and Mr Ng Joo Hee for their vision and commitment to laying a strong foundation for HomeTeamNS.

5. These past few years have been especially exciting as HomeTeamNS has been renewing itself to meet the changing needs of our Home Team NSmen and their families. In 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister Masagos, together with SPF and SCDF Commissioners and NS leaders, engaged 3,000 NSmen to solicit ideas and suggestions to better serve the needs of our Home Team NSmen. Many of you said that you valued having your own HomeTeamNS clubhouses. The HomeTeamNS Management Committee then embarked on a comprehensive action plan guided by four strategic thrusts: to redevelop the Clubhouses into lifestyle hubs; to deliver better value through membership privileges and service offerings; to enhance NSmen engagement; and to strengthen connections through wider communication channels.

6. In 2014, we completed the first phase of the makeover of HomeTeamNS Clubhouses in Bukit Batok, Balestier and Chinatown. The patronage at the Bukit Batok clubhouse has since more than doubled, a clear indication that our HomeTeam NSmen and their families value the changes and improvements. We can also look forward to the reopening of the revamped Sembawang Clubhouse by the middle of this year. It will offer a new series of staycation rooms and more F&B options.

7. The Tampines Clubhouse is on track to be completed in 2016. This is a new concept as the Clubhouse will be integrated with the Tampines Town Hub, and our Home Team NSmen will have access to facilities such as a sports stadium, an indoor climbing theme park, bowling alley and library.

8. Beyond these developments, we will continue to see how we can make HomeTeam NS relevant and valuable to our members. The transformation that we have seen in HomeTeamNS has been possible because our NS Commanders and NSmen have come forward to serve, to chair the various Committees, and to gather feedback and views from our members. It is a measure of the success of your efforts that over 7,000 NS Commanders and men have chosen to hold their unit-cohesion and recognition activities at HomeTeamNS clubhouses. And we hope that many more of you will use the Clubhouses' facilities and services to network, and deepen the sense of esprit de corps within the Home Team.

9. Last but not least, I would also like to thank the team of staff at HomeTeam NS who have been working hard and persevering behind the scenes to ensure the success of these upgrading efforts. I am pleased to note, and share with you, that they have been recognised for their outstanding level of service and professionalism. 11 HomeTeamNS employees were awarded SPRING Singapore's Silver Service Excellence Award. The HomeTeamNS Frontline Magazine received the Award for Publication Excellence and Content Marketing Award for excellence in its refreshed design. The innovative designs of our revamped clubhouses also did not go unnoticed; they clinched the Singapore Good Design Mark (SG Mark) SG50 Special Edition Award. Well Done!

## **Conclusion**

10. In closing, let me thank all of you once again for your contributions and commitment to help make HomeTeamNS meaningful and relevant to the lives of our Home Team NSmen and their families. Your efforts have helped to lay a strong foundation upon which we have built, and continue to strengthen, the solidarity and identity of our Home Team. I wish you all a pleasant and enjoyable evening with Home Team friends, partners and compatriots. Thank you.