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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY  
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PRESIDENT, HOMETEAMNS  
HomeTeamNS MEMBERS EXTRAVAGANZA 2019  
23 MAR 2019, 3PM  
PLAZA SINGAPURA**

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HomeTeamNS members

Families and friends,

1. This year is the Singapore Bicentennial. What has it got to do with you, Home Team NSmen and your families?

2. Actually, quite a lot when we look back at history.

**HomeTeam in the Bicentennial Journey**

3. Since the 1800s, policemen and firefighters have been serving and protecting our people.

- In fact, in 1820, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) was formed, making it one of the earliest government organisations to be established on our little red dot.
- In 1888, the Singapore Fire Brigade was formed. It only became the SCDF in 1986.

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- In 1949, 70 years ago, the first batch of 10 women began their police training. Today, our CID is headed by a woman. We have many outstanding women officers in the police and civil defence.

4. Some of us also remember the painful incidents in the past which challenged our officers to their limits, such as

- the collapse of Hotel New World in 1986,
- the hijack of Singapore Airlines SQ117 in 1991
- and more recently, the Pulau Busing oil storage tank fire.

5. In all three cases, our officers rose to the challenge.

- They mounted rescue operations to limit the damage.
- Even as we mourned our losses, the nation was grateful that our officers' actions ultimately saved lives.

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6. There were also occasions the Home Team made Singaporeans proud. For example, in the hosting of the Trump-Kim Summit last year. Many Home Team NSMen served alongside regular officers to ensure safety and security.

7. In other words, the men and women in our police and civil defence forces have been very much a part of our journey in the last 200 years from Singapore to Singaporeans.

- You have been our everyday guardians
- As events around the world keep reminding us, we can never take safety and security for granted.
- It is a constant challenge that can only be addressed with unstinting vigilance.

### **HomeTeamNS Bicentennial REAL Pledge**

8. Therefore, even though some things can change - such as our uniforms, our equipment, our methods - we must be steadfast in our commitment to keep each other safe and Singapore secure.

- This was necessary in the past.
- It remains so today and in the future.

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This is why, as we mark the Singapore Bicentennial, HomeTeamNS is launching a pledge movement today.

We call this “The REAL pledge”.

If you recall, “R-E-A-L” has been a rallying call for all Home Team NSmen to pursue “Regular Exercise and Active Living”.

- Therefore, we have “The REAL Run” and “The REAL Swim”.
- Why is R-E-A-L important?
- Because this is a tangible way to make sure we will always be ready, to contribute to peacetime efforts and in times of crises, as one Home Team supporting each other to serve Singaporeans.

The “REAL pledge” aims to get our NSMen to re-commit to give of their best in service of the safety and security of fellow Singaporeans.

Your families too, are vital.

- Your spouses take care of your homes and loved ones so you can serve with peace of mind.
- Your parents and children understand that when duty calls, you may be away and they give you their blessings anyway.

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Their pledge of support is therefore equally important.

By the end of the year, we hope to collect 100,000 pledges from NSmen and your families.

- I'm very happy that at today's Members' extravaganza, we expect to have about 1,500 pledges.
- It's a good start but you can see we have a long way to go!

HomeTeamNS will also pledge to take care of the social and lifestyle needs of our NSmen and your families.

**We** are constantly enhancing our clubhouse facilities and offerings, to cater to your recreational needs and help you bond with your families.

- In less than a year, members will be able to visit a new SMART clubhouse in Khatib. Highlights include a 4-storey Indoor Adventure Hub and our largest gym with state of the art equipment, an Indoor children's playground with interactive features and an eco-friendly 8-lane swimming pool.
- **Another new clubhouse at Bedok will break ground later this year. I won't say much more but this waterfront clubhouse promises to be equally exciting.**

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- **Existing clubhouses at Bukit Batok and Tampines, will also be refreshed.**
- On top of this, members can also look forward to better benefits, such as 1-for-1 weekend movie tickets at Cathay Cineplexes, and a chance to win a SKODA Octavia Ambition car by signing up for or renewing their HomeTeamNS memberships.

## **Conclusion**

9. To conclude, let me once again thank all our Home Team NSmen and your families for your services to the nations.
  - We can never match what you have given to fellow Singaporeans.
  - But through the clubhouses, the membership benefits and the many opportunities for you to connect with one another, we hope you can sense the recognition and our appreciation.
  - Membership has its privileges: enjoy the buffet lunch and movie treat.
  - And thank you for coming today!