

Opening Address at Judiciary Cares 2016

1 November 2016

Society for the Aged Sick

Good morning Mr Eric Teoh, staff and volunteers of the Society for the Aged Sick, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to join you here today with my colleagues from the Supreme Court, the State Courts, and the Family Justice Courts, to share this day with the residents, staff and volunteers of the Society. Since 1968, when the Society took over the Welfare Resthome, it has dedicated itself to serving the community by providing quality care for the aged sick and destitute. When the Society first undertook this work, it started with a small home which only housed 16 residents. From those humble beginnings, its mission has expanded such that today, it runs one of the largest nursing homes in Singapore which cares for over 400 residents. Throughout the course of this journey, the SAS has never wavered in its commitment to serving the people, and it has constantly sought to evolve to better meet the multifaceted needs of its residents.

The recent large-scale developments which have enabled the Society to reach an even greater number of beneficiaries would not have been possible without the tireless work of its staff and volunteers. These are

individuals who have chosen to dedicate their lives to sharing the daily joys and struggles of this community. Your dedicated efforts to this mission is truly inspiring.

The Judiciary shares the Society's mission of serving our community with passion and integrity although our respective spheres may differ. Ours is focused on the administration of justice, and yours on administering clinical and psychosocial care. Those who choose to work in both our spheres are in a sense choosing a "higher calling"; for such work is primarily concerned with looking beyond one's own interest towards meeting the needs of others.

I thank you for giving us an opportunity today to step into your sphere of service and enabling us to meet and interact with the residents of the SAS today. We are delighted to be able to have an opportunity to come together through this annual *Judiciary Cares* event as different branches of the Singapore Judiciary working together in the hope that we may be able to bring some cheer to the hearts of the residents today. Together, the Judges and court administrators have raised a total of more than \$30,000 which we have put into the *Judiciary Cares* programme this year for the Society.

Our programme today is packed with fun-filled activities which we are confident you will enjoy being a part of. In recent years, the Society has moved towards holistic care by providing platforms for the residents to pursue their gifts, interests and hobbies – from singing, to creative movement and art. In line with this, in just a short while, we will have song and dance performances

by the judges and court administrators from all three courts followed by a buffet lunch. In the afternoon, some of the residents will go on an outing to appreciate the wonderful world of nature at the Singapore Zoo, while the rest of the residents will be entertained by a carnival with a wide array of food and game stalls.

Finally, we have prepared a goodie bag for all 400 residents of the Society. Each goodie bag represents our heartfelt care and concern for every one of the residents here today. It contains a windbreaker, food snacks, and toiletries, all of which we hope you will enjoy and find useful.

I thank all of you for having us today and hope that you will have a fantastic day with us.

Thank you.