

**ADDRESS BY MR LIM SIEW CHENG
HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY
COMMUNITY CHEST
AT THE NUS RAG AND FLAG 2010 - SPLENDOUR
FRIDAY, 6 AUGUST, 3PM
NUS SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTRE
RUNNING TRACK**

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President, National University of Singapore

Associate Professor Tan Teck Koon, Dean of Students, National University of Singapore

Teachers and Students

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good afternoon. It is my pleasure to join all of you here today at the annual Rag Day event organised by the National University of Singapore Students' Union (NUSSU). Firstly, congratulations on the 52nd anniversary of the Rag Day. It has come a long way from its humble beginnings as a fun way to thank the public for their contributions during Flag Day to the brilliant visual showcase it has become today.

2. I would like to thank NUSSU for being a staunch partner of Community Chest and extending a helping hand to the less fortunate for the past nine years. Since 2001, NUSSU, through their Flag Day, has raised close to \$3 million to help support critical social programmes under the care of Community Chest.

3. My sincere thanks to Associate Professor Tan Teck Koon, Dean of Students, and his team in the Office of Student Affairs, who worked closely with NUSSU to organise this annual event. Your support and efforts have helped to raise awareness of the needs of the less fortunate among the undergraduates and the public.

4. I would also like to commend all the students from the different faculties and halls for helping to collect donations around Singapore on 3rd August during the annual Flag Day. It is never easy to approach strangers in public for a donation, so thank you for stepping out of your comfort zone. The sum of over \$500,000 collected by the students this week would benefit 20 charities under Community Chest.

5. Every contribution to Community Chest makes a difference to the lives of the beneficiaries. The funds raised by the students would enable Community Chest to take a significant step closer to reaching this year's fund-raising target of \$55.2 million to benefit 72 charities. The funds raised will help more than 320,000 beneficiaries through 161 social service programmes such as counselling, job placement services, special education, residential homes and physical rehabilitation.

6. With more demands for social services, there is a need for Community Chest to raise more funds every year. Thus, the fund-raising target has also correspondingly increased by nearly 50% compared to a decade ago. The number of social service programmes has also increased tremendously from 111 to 161, reaching out to more than 320,000 beneficiaries. It is through the contributions of many committed individuals and organisations like NUS that Community Chest is able to meet the challenge each year to raise enough funds. Without your generous support,

the needy would not be able to live life with dignity, nor fulfill their hopes and dreams.

7. Once again, my sincere gratitude to all students and staff of NUS for your support to Community Chest. Today, we come together to celebrate another successful Rag and Flag Day. Our venue today has been transformed into a grand arena to showcase the environmentally-friendly floats that were built by the various halls and faculties, and we will also witness the momentous arrival of the YOG Flame. I look forward to admiring today's displays, which will no doubt epitomise the dedication, creativity and enthusiasm of the students.

8. I hope you can harness these positive qualities in all your future endeavours and may your dedication and passion continue to touch the lives of the disadvantaged in the years to come.

9. Thank you all, and enjoy the show.