

**ADDRESS BY MR P Y HWANG
VICE-CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST
AT THE NUS RAG AND FLAG 2009
SATURDAY, 8 AUGUST 2009, 9AM
NUS SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTRE
RUNNING TRACK**

**Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister (Community Development,
Youth and Sports)**

**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

Good morning. 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).

2 NUSSU has been a stalwart partner of Community Chest in lending a helping hand to the less fortunate. Since 2001, NUSSU,

through their Flag Day, has raised more than \$2 million to help ensure that our beneficiaries can continue to receive support from the social service programmes under our care.

3 The long-standing tradition of Flag Day would not be possible without the support of Associate Professor Tan Teck Koon, Dean of Students. My appreciation to Associate Professor Tan and his team in the Office of Student Affairs in working with the NUSSU to organise this annual event, which also help raise awareness of the needs of the less fortunate among the undergraduates and the public.

4 I would like to commend the freshmen and seniors from the different faculties and hostels, who started the ball rolling by making their way around Singapore on 4th August for the annual Flag Day. The amount collected by the students would go towards NUSSU's fund-raising target of \$350,000, which 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 be a step closer in reaching this year's fund-raising target of \$52.6 million to support 69 charities. With these funds, more than 340,000 beneficiaries will receive help through 155 critical social service programmes such as family service centres, home help services, therapy rehabilitation and special schools, to name a few.

6 Community Chest has come a long way since 1983. Last year, we celebrated our 25th anniversary. From serving 22,000 people in 1984, the number has grown to over 300,000 today. Over the years, many selfless individuals and organisations such as NUS have contributed generously to Community Chest to help the needy in fulfilling their hopes and dream.

7 Through the funds raised, we have provided critical resources such as teachers or therapists as they are essential to help **children** with special needs lead independent lives. The funds have also enabled support to be provided to **families in distress** to cope with the stresses of life, especially during the current economic downturn. Funds have also been channelled to home care support for the **elderly** to enable them to receive optimal care whilst enjoying family bliss and to provide **adults with disabilities** with vocational training and employment to help them lead independent lives.

8 I am glad that the beneficiaries from the Singapore Cheshire Home, Bukit Ho Swee Family Service Centre and Metta School which would be benefiting from the kindness of donors and the hard work put in by the students, are here to showcase their talents. Their performances would enable the students to gain better appreciation of the daily challenges the beneficiaries face and understand how crucial and significant the care and support is to the beneficiaries.

9 Once again, my sincere gratitude to all students, and staff of NUS for your support to Community Chest. In line with the theme of NUSSU Rag and Flag 2009 “Exploding Colours, Exuberating Zest!”, we look forward to seeing the same effusive passion and spirit in reaching out and changing the lives of the disadvantaged for many years to come.

10 Thank you all.