

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR ZAINUDIN NORDIN, CHAIRMAN
ONEPEOPLE.SG AT ONEPEOPLE.SG'S VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION TEA**

Good Afternoon

Fellow Board Members

Volunteers

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to warmly welcome you to OnePeople.sg's inaugural Volunteers' Appreciation Tea. Today's ceremony is held to appreciate the special people who have been championing the racial harmony movement with OnePeople.sg in their voluntary capacity, some of whom since 2007.

2 In total, we have 300 volunteers in OnePeople.sg since its launch. They help us to roll out volunteer-driven programmes and initiatives to various sectors in the community. For instance, our Volunteer Facilitators are the ones behind the success of our flagship Explorations in Ethnicity Programme, otherwise known as EiE. This programme allows participants to gain insight into race-relations and how their ethnic and cultural identities have been shaped through facilitated dialogues, hands-on activities and personal sharing sessions.

3 Our Youth Wing Members are mostly made up of graduates from our annual CampTeen Programme for Secondary School youth leaders. They go on to lead projects such as Rafusicul where we promote racial harmony through music. Cyclovation is another example of a volunteer-driven initiative by a multi-racial group of youths to promote environmental awareness in Singapore with an element of racial harmony weaved in. Interesting indeed!

4 Our volunteers also assist with programmes such as the Orange Ribbon Celebrations and HarmonyWorks Conference. With the help of our dedicated volunteers, we have successfully reached out to numerous youths across Singapore over the years.

5 These passionate volunteers have put in precious time and effort into making every programme of ours a success. They ought to be recognised for their significant contributions. I believe they too, have benefited from their experiences volunteering for OnePeople.sg. Try asking any one of them; I am sure they would have much more to share with you.

6 Today, we will be presenting awards to these deserving volunteers who have been active and passionate in helping us reach out to our target audience. These include people like Eric Choo, who has been with us since the start of our EiE journey and have chalked up countless facilitation engagements; Aprilia Lok, who was the Chairperson for the Rafusicul Committee for the past four years; and

Nurulhuda Yusoff, who is holding a leadership position on the Youth Wing Executive Committee for the fifth year running.

7 The 'Harmony Award' will be given to 23 volunteers who have made significant contributions to the organisation. We hope this will spur them on to continue with their volunteering efforts. The 'Long Service Award' will be presented to 19 volunteers who have been with us for at least 5 years. A number of them have been volunteering since the launch of the organisation and we have benefitted much from them. We hope it has been an enriching and meaningful experience for them as well.

8 I would like to also take this opportunity to thank every single one of you here who has contributed in one way or another. Thank you for being our Pillars of Harmony.

I wish you a pleasant afternoon ahead.

Thank you.