

SPEECH BY MR EDWARD D'SILVA, CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC HYGIENE COUNCIL, AT THE LAUNCH OF *KEEP CLEAN, SINGAPORE! 2022*, 24 APRIL 2022

Good morning:

- **Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Ms Grace Fu**
- **Permanent Secretary for Sustainability and the Environment, Mr Stanley Loh**
- **NEA CEO, Mr Luke Goh**
- **Mayors and Advisers**
- **Distinguished Guests**

Thank you all for being here at the launch of the Keep Clean, Singapore! 2022 campaign, either in person or virtually. This year's message is a simple one, "It's not a job, it's our duty". Keeping public spaces clean is not just somebody's job. Singapore is our home. And it is our duty, our responsibility – individually and collectively – to take care of our home and keep it clean.

Since 2011, the mission of the Public Hygiene Council has been to create a culture where good hygiene and cleanliness habits are second nature to Singaporeans. We will continue to conduct our public engagement and outreach programmes until these habits become ingrained in everyone. These will include keeping public toilets clean.

This year, we are launching Singapore's first ground-up Neighbourhood Toilets Community Group, in collaboration with Yuhua Citizens' Consultative Committee (CCC), Jurong-Clementi Town Council (JCTC) and Grassroots Organisations (GROs). Through this initiative, we hope to educate the premise owners and coffeeshop toilets' users of their joint responsibilities in maintaining

the cleanliness of toilets. Dirty toilets can become breeding grounds for germs and bacteria to grow. Unfortunately, many people see public toilets as places they transit through and think it is somebody's else job to keep them clean.

The Neighbourhood Toilets Community Group sets out to correct this thinking. Everyone shares the burden of keeping public toilets clean. Every person who uses a public toilet should keep it clean for the next user. Only then can the toilet be clean for every member of the public. Premises owners will be reminded to keep their toilets well-maintained too. This is our pilot phase, and we are in talks with more premises owners and town councils to expand this initiative.

Today also marks the third quarterly SG Clean Day. This is a day when there is no sweeping of common areas, from 6am to midnight. I am pleased that this movement continues to grow, and today, we welcome four new partners. Mandai Wildlife Group, Sentosa, Resorts World Sentosa, and Gardens by the Bay will also stop sweeping in selected common areas. We hope visitors to these tourist attractions will treat their trash responsibly. Dormitories, public parks, gardens, park connectors and housing estates across 17 towns will continue to cease sweeping on this day, and various grassroots organisations have organised litter picking activities around their neighbourhoods.

Some of you may have spotted our Trashemon bins, Timmy TumTrash, Eddie EyeTrash and Claire ClawTrash, deployed all around the island since last year. Today, you can still spot Timmy TumTrash at Gardens by the Bay. Later, we will be presenting awards to the top ten winning designs of the "Feed My Trashemon" design competition that we conducted last year for secondary school students. We hope the creatively designed trash bins not only grabbed your

attention on the streets and encouraged you to 'feed' your trash to them, but also created the opportunity for our youths to think out-of-the-box, research and understand the importance of keeping Singapore clean.

In closing, I would like to share a thought with you. "Home" goes beyond the four walls that we wake up to every day. "Home" is the hawker centre where we meet our friends for a hearty meal; it is the park where we enjoy an evening stroll; it is the bus stop where we catch the bus to work; it is the neighbourhood gym that we visit for a good workout. All of these places make up the special place we call home, and it is our responsibility to keep it clean, for ourselves and everyone around us.

Thank you.