

WELCOME ADDRESS

BY MR ANDREW KHNG, CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC HYGIENE COUNCIL

KEEP SINGAPORE CLEAN 2026

SUNDAY, 19 APRIL 2026

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Minister Chan Chun Sing, Coordinating Minister for Public Services and

Minister for Defence

SMS Dr Janil Puthucheary

Mayor Baey Yam Keng

Advisers

PS Melvyn Ong

CEO NEA Wong Kang Jet

CEO CapitaLand Investment Ervin Yeo

Excellencies,

PHC Council Members,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

1 Good morning and welcome to the launch of KSC 2026. I am happy to see so many friends here today, and I am also very honoured to have Minister Chan here with us this morning to grace this milestone event.

2 We have a common goal, and that is to achieve a cleaner Singapore. Each of us represents our “We First” society in action—partners who believe that keeping our environment clean is our shared responsibility.

PHC’s Foundation and Mission

3 This year marks PHC’s 15th anniversary. PHC was formed with a bold mission: to mobilise every Singapore resident in pursuit of the Gotong Royong spirit, to bring about the highest cleanliness standards for a litter-free nation. Since 2011, PHC has been championing good public hygiene and cleanliness of our shared spaces.

4 In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic reminded us how public hygiene is always taken for granted. And in 2024, the oil spill crisis showed us how quickly and easily our shores and waters can be threatened and livelihoods affected.

5 I am delighted that our first PHC Chairman – Mr Liak Teng Lit – is here this morning. Mr Liak has always reminded us that Singapore transformed from a typical third-world country in the 1960s, to become one of the world's cleanest cities by the 1980s, through strong leadership and collective hard work.

6 Over the years, PHC has expanded to build stronger partnerships across many sectors. As former PHC Chairman Mr Edward D'Silva reflected, "We enlarged the Council by engaging stakeholders widely across government, NGOs and the community."

Expanding Our Reach

7 In my time and under my leadership, we have translated our collective responsibility into comprehensive action, through PHC's many initiatives – such as growing our large volunteer networks (Corporates, NGOs, Communities, Educational Institutions, and people with a passion for a clean environment).

8 And last year, we started our Train-the-Trainers programme. I am happy to report that more than 100 champions have been trained to date. PHC is glad that more are coming forward to learn that litter-picking can be fun if you do it right. We have expanded our CleanPods from being only at static locations to include Mobile CleanPods, to make it easier for groups or companies to reach the tools and not worry about having resources for their activities.

9 PHC believes in starting young, and what better way to engage not only school children, but also preschoolers through our partnership with ECDA, and with students at all levels through to IHLs.

10 We have expanded our networks globally – speaking at prestigious international platforms, such as the World Cleanup Day Global Forum, Pest Summit, and Healthy Oceans conference.

11 And at home, PHC volunteers have contributed their time and efforts at major national events, such as: F1 Singapore Grand Prix, National Day Parade, Chingay, and New Year countdown – just naming a few crowd-pulling events.

Partnership with CapitaLand Investment

12 I am happy to announce that this morning, PHC and CapitaLand Investment signed an MOU to strengthen our partnership. Shopping malls are important touchpoints for millions of people. Our KSC video will be played across all CapitaLand malls this year, to remind patrons to practise good cleanliness habits when out shopping or eating.

13 Today is SG Clean Day, when communities across Singapore take action. To celebrate our anniversary, we have introduced our 'PHC15 Cleanliness Champions Relay' – where 20 key partners will mobilise

thousands of volunteers at 15 locations, to carry out a relay of clean-ups. We thank CapitaLand Investment for starting our Relay this morning, with litter-picking at Kent Ridge Park.

14 I would like to take this opportunity to thank Minister Chan once again for joining us at this milestone event, and also my Council Members who have supported PHC by being there in good times like this and also in crises that we have gone through. Last but not the least, my deep appreciation also to my PHC Secretariat team headed by Dr Christina Liew, for making things happen and not waiting for things to occur.

Conclusion

15 To conclude, let us all continue on our journey to build the right culture – from being aware, to having a habit of respecting and appreciating our country's limited resources. And to strengthen our shared responsibility to keep Singapore clean – for our children and our future generations.

Thank you.