

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR DOUGLAS FOO, SMF PRESIDENT  
AT NS50 SAF COMBINED REDEDICATION CEREMONY 2017  
FOR THE EAST ZONE  
FRIDAY, 30 JUNE 2017, 9AM, AT SiT@DOVER AUDITORIUM**

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Mr Lim Swee Say, Minister for Manpower;

Major-General Melvyn Ong, Chief of Army

National Servicemen from the Singapore Armed Forces;

Council Members;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning.

1. A very warm welcome to everyone including those of you in the overflow room as we gather here this morning to commemorate SAF Day and to renew our pledge of allegiance and loyalty to our country. Your presence today is a reaffirmation of your commitment to the defence and security

of Singapore. The Singapore Manufacturing Federation, otherwise known as SMF, is privileged to be able to organise today's SAF Day Combined Rededication Ceremony for the East Zone for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

### **NS50: The importance of National Service**

2. Indeed, this rededication ceremony is a meaningful occasion for us to reflect on the importance of defence, the need for National Service, and what we must do to safeguard the peace and security of Singapore, especially against the mounting threat of terrorism in today's context. And more so, since this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year of National Service (or NS50 in short) for Singapore. I am happy to announce that this year, we have over 100 participating organisations with 600 NSmen and guests with us today, a record so far and a testimony of your enthusiastic support and belief in the importance of NS.
  
3. NS50 is a significant milestone for us as an integral part of Singapore's nation building journey. For 50 years, NS has played a critical role in protecting our sovereignty as a young nation. This has resulted in the

peace and stability of which we have built our Singapore for all of us and our families to enjoy and our businesses to prosper till this day. NS is also a rite passage for every Singaporean son and plays an important part of our national identity. Therefore, NS50 is a great opportunity for us, as NS men and employers to recognise and remember our collective commitment to uphold NS as a pillar of pride and strength for Singapore. But not just for the past and present generations, but also the future generation.

4. On this note, I am pleased to announce that in celebration of NS50, SMF is paying tribute to this special occasion with a NS50 commemorative song composed by Mr Eric Watson. Mr Watson is the composer-in-residence of the Singapore Chinese Orchestra and the song will be delivered by the Singapore Pocket Opera Theatre. They will be singing this song commissioned by SMF for the first time shortly after this.

### **Closing**

5. In closing, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to our forefathers who have had the foresight to establish NS, and also to my fellow NS men who have over the years served selflessly to the defence of our country.

And not to forget our employers and our families for the support to us NS men. Indeed without their support, we would not be able to focus on our training and operational duties. Our success today as we celebrate NS50, rests entirely on the dedication and unwavering commitment from everyone.

6. For this reason, let us continue to nurture and deepen these commitments and attitudes towards national defence from this generation to the next. As we mark 50 years of National Service, let us remain vigilant in safeguarding our nation's security. NS is a vital component of national defence and SMF, together with our member companies must support our employee's NS commitment. Everyone has a stake to defend our Singapore. Just as we did in the past, I am confident that we can and we will defend Singapore today and tomorrow.
  
7. Majulah Singapore!

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