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**SPEECH BY DR MOHAMAD MALIKI BIN OSMAN
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
ADVISER TO ADMIRALTY GROS AT
7TH OUTSTANDING ALL-ROUNDER STUDENT (OARS)
AWARDS 2007 PRESENTATION CEREMONY ON
23 MAY 2007 AT REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC**

North West CDC Councillors

School Principals and Representatives

Parents

Ladies and Gentlemen

Boys and Girls

1 I am indeed very pleased to be here this evening to present North West CDC's Outstanding All-Rounder Student Awards to our recipients. Let me start by extending my warmest congratulations to the 191 award winners from 69 schools and institutions in the North West district. We are very proud of your exemplary leadership, outstanding accomplishments and

noteworthy spirit and contribution to your school and the community.

2 **Engaging youths is an integral part of the North West CDC's key thrusts of Building an Active Community.** We hope to see more youths coming forward to actively participate in our community initiatives. Through the OARS Awards, we hope to further engage our students and to encourage them to be an all-rounder in their pursuit of knowledge and to develop a positive mindset and resourcefulness in whatever they do. We are confident that the outstanding award recipients will be great role models and a source of inspiration to their peers.

3 I have high hopes and great expectations of our awardees. I was told that our outstanding award recipients demonstrated and exuded leadership skills and made active contribution towards the school and the community.

4 In order for the award recipients to stay in touch with the North West community, the North West CDC would like to invite you, the OARS Award recipients to join the Youth Assembly, the youth wing under the North West CDC to continue your journey in community works and engagement.

5 Since its establishment in 2005, the Youth Assembly has organised various community events, including the recent Bus MRT Walk Challenge, a competition similar to the popular Amazing Race; the Green Teen Camp, an environmental awareness and education camp and the North West CDC Futsal Challenge Cup.

6 These projects not only benefit the community but had allowed our youth volunteers to discover their potentials, to network with fellow peers and to realise the difference that they could make as an individual in the community.

7 It is indeed important for young people to realize that there is much that can be done within the community. From helping low income children to read and write, to befriending lonely elderly to solving problems of noise pollution created by teens in the neighbourhood- such community issues need to be owned and managed by members of the community themselves. I believe the best people to do so are the young ones like yourselves. What is more important is to realize that through community projects, we will enhance the sense of community ownership and rootedness to the community amongst the young.

7 I am sure our OARS Awards recipients this year will have much to contribute to the effectiveness of the Youth Assembly in bringing about a more caring and warm North West District. Let me once again congratulate all the winners tonight and thank all the schools for showing your support towards the OARS Awards for the past seven years.

8 Have a pleasant evening. Thank you.