

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR ALEX YAM,
MAYOR OF NORTH WEST DISTRICT
AT THE COUNCIL APPOINTMENT CEREMONY AND APPRECIATION
LUNCH 2023
ON SATURDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2023
THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

Our very honored guests,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr. Lawrence Wong;

Vice Chair of Northwest CDC, Dr. Lim Wee Kiak;

Our grassroot advisors, Mr. Eric Chia and Mr. Derrick Goh;

North West Council Members;

Ladies & Gentlemen;

Introduction

A very, very good afternoon to all of you.

- Welcome to Parliament. It is of course my pleasure to welcome Deputy Prime Minister, and our distinguished guests to the North West Council Appointment Ceremony & Appreciation Lunch 2023.
- I'm very happy to see many familiar faces gathered with us here today, to celebrate the achievements of our 8th Council and welcome our new 9th Term Council members.

Achievements of the 8th Term of Council

- Those of you who were with me in 8th Term, my first term as mayor of North West, I would remember it as a particularly unique time to serve as a district counsellor in Northwest.
- Although our term ended on 26 July 2023, which is one month ago, it seems as if our term went by both very quickly and yet was very slow,

FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING

because we served during the Covid crises. Despite the challenges that Covid brought to all of us in our work in serving our community, we managed to innovate in terms of how we assisted our residents through various programmes. We made a difference to their lives and I'm very thankful, especially, for the support of our Council Members who have provided us with very useful insights and ideas. Many of which we have introduced in our council.

- A lot of what we've achieved I've already spoken about at our recent district meeting, which we held at Gardens By The Bay, but I also like to take the opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks, once again, to our 8th Term of Council members – our various District Councillors and Resource Persons, for your valuable contributions, as well as your family members for their understanding and allowing us to take up so much of your time. This has enabled all of us to provide more support to address the needs in our community, the North West.
- North West CDC has achieved much in the last three years, due to your strong support.

Recognising District Councillors

- Our District Councillors and Resource Persons, of course, play a crucial role in helping us to build valuable networks to sustain our programmes and initiatives in the district.
- I would like to recognise the contributions of our District Councillors who have stayed committed to the development of our District over the years.
- One is **Mr Hakim Yunos**. He is currently holding our record for the youngest District Councillor, but he is no stranger to North West CDC. Despite his youthfulness, he has already been an active volunteer in the North West Youth Assembly for over 10 years and was Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING

for the YA EXCO committee from 2020 to 2022. Hakim has championed many initiatives to support the different areas of needs in our community, and was part of the organising committee for the North West Youth Concert 2022 – bringing his expertise and network of youths which have contributed very much to the success of the event. Thank you, Hakim.

- Of course, in North West, one of the most recognizable facets of our work is that T shirt with the footprint – that is our brisk walking club, the key element of our healthy living communities and we welcome on board **Ms Ung Bee Koon** as our newly appointed co-chair of the Healthy Living Standing Committee. Bee Koon is very involved in promoting healthier lifestyles and through her connections, has helped us, the CDC, to establish networks with Active SG sports coaches and speakers, as well as personally providing valuable feedback and strategic direction in shaping many of our Healthy Living programmes. Her contributions in bringing experts on board to share knowledge and practical insights have increased the quality of our workshops and activities to strengthen the impact of our healthy living programmes. Thank you, Bee Koon, well done.
- We also recognize our long-standing members who have contributed to our North West District for many decades, one of whom is, **Mr Allen Ang**. Allen is a long-standing District Councillor of 22 years. Thank you, Allen. He has contributed in many ways to the North West in different areas outside of his duties in the Green Living Standing Committee. Allen served as the Chairman of the North West Youth Concert organising committee for 10 years and has helped us to raise the profile of young people in our district, and also to raise funds for our needy residents, especially our students. Even though Allen will be stepping down this term as co-chair of Green Living Standing Committee, he will

continue to serve as our District Councillor and provide his much-needed guidance and experiences with our newer DCs. Thank you, Allen for that as well.

- Many who have served in our 8th Term Council have made significant contributions of which, I am unable to thank each one of you. But please be assured that you have my greatest appreciation for your dedication to our cause and to serve our residents, despite the difficulties of Covid.

Future Plan for 9th Term Council

- Today we also officially appoint the 9th Term of Council, comprising 63 District Councillors, with 24 of you being new to our Council. The new line-up includes several experienced District Councillors who have served the North West for many years, and also passionate individuals from public and private sectors, with varying industries such as healthcare, education, social support, and SME business owners, comprising different viewpoints, different experiences and expertise to help us increase the colour and chemistry that we have in our North West district, to better serve our residents.
- Amongst the newly appointed DCs, we have also have more representatives from the social service agencies to enable us to have more touch points with the community and provide more comprehensive support to meet the different needs of our residents.
- We are excited to have these passionate individuals join our Council, bringing a unique blend of skills and expertise, which will of course value-add to spearheading our ideas and providing direction for our programmes.
- Two new programmes that we rolled out this year are: HealthierSG Fest which has just concluded in June and was held over two days, to

FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING

encourage residents to lead a healthier lifestyle. This is something that we will continue to run to encourage and help residents take responsibility of their health.

- In addition, the upcoming North West Sustainability Festival in November will encourage our residents to take up green practices at home, and help them kick-start their green journey.
- Our next big event, you will see the flyers on the table, this is our Club-100 Charity Golf which is coming up on 17th October. One, you get to network with fellow district councillors and make new friends and all for good cause as we support our platform in raising funds for our community. The event provides a platform for us to fundraise and to give more assistance to North West residents. We seek our council members' support to share this with your network. More details can be found in our marketing kit that have been placed on the tables.
- The CDC will continue to explore other areas of needs, to encourage residents to lead a healthier lifestyle, and develop new exciting ideas with our new term of Council.

Conclusion

- Therefore, once again, I would like to extend my appreciation to the 8th Term of Council members for your contributions and support for the past three years.
- To the 9th Term of Council members, I look forward to working closely with all of you and together, let us continue to strengthen the community of care in the North West.
- Thank you as well to DPM for your constant guidance and support for the work that the district does and our various Grassroots Advisors for also contributing your suggestions and feedback to us.

FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING

- I wish all of you an enjoyable afternoon and here's to a successful 9th Term and serving our residents in multiples. Thank you all very much.