

OPENING SPEECH BY SCCC PRESIDENT
SAF DAY COMBINED REDEDICATION CEREMONY 2017
30 JUNE 2017, 10:00AM – 11:30AM
THE JTC SUMMIT THEATRETTE

尊敬的贸工部林勋强部长，
空军总长陈尉民少将，
裕廊集团助理总裁陈有和
各位来宾：

大家上午好！今天，在裕廊东，这个新加坡的工业摇篮，总商会和各行各业的商团、企业代表一起，由贸工部林勋强部长亲自主理宣誓仪式，这个活动非常有意义，充分展示了商家对国民服役制度的支持！

七十年代，我曾在这一带工作，周围的景象和现在可以说是千差万别。那时的裕廊大会堂是JTC的总部，现在是商团中心。时过境迁，裕廊东已经发生了巨大的变化，越来越热闹，越来越繁荣。而所有的这一切，都需要在和平、安定的环境下才能做到。

今年是国民服役制度实行50周年。出席宣誓仪式的商家代表，许多都是最早一批的服役军人。那时候，大家在艰苦的环境中训练，不同种族、宗教、文化背景的青年同吃同住，培养共同的价值观，立志保卫国家，维护和平，让新加坡更加繁荣昌盛。看看新加坡现在的成就，我们这些老兵应该感到自豪！我们付出的汗水结出了硕果，我们的下一代也同样穿起军装，继续保卫国家！

和平的日子来之不易，我们一定要珍惜，绝不能放松警惕。尤其是目前，世界各国都正面临恐怖主义威胁，新加坡也不能幸免。最近，在其他国家接连发生恐怖袭击事件，这个时候，我们更加需要团结一致，提高防卫能力，提高民众的应变能力。

出席今天宣誓仪式的商家将签署声明，并获得“支持国民服役标志 NS Mark”，这是一项国家级的认证，鼓励雇主支持员工回营受训，掌握技能，在国家危机或紧急事故发生时，捐献物资，提供服务。为此，我们吁请商家，响应国防部的号召，大家一起努力，加强我国的安全防线。

最后，感谢合作机构空军无人驾驶侦察机指挥部和裕廊集团，感谢各位商家代表的出席，让我们大家提高警惕，一起保卫国家！

接下来，我将用英语发言。

Good morning to everyone! It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the SAF Combined Rededication Ceremony for the West Zone, officiated by Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang. We are indeed happy and privileged to host this meaningful event, which fully demonstrates the strong support of businesses towards National Service.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of National Service. In the early days of National Service, young men from different racial, religious and cultural backgrounds came together to undergo the same tough training and learned to be resilient. Together, they cultivated shared values of protecting our country, and upholding peace to bring even more prosperity to Singapore. Our veteran NSmen should be very proud of Singapore's current achievements! Our efforts have been richly rewarded. Our next generation will continue to wear the NS uniform with pride, as they carry on to defend our nation! Peace is not easily attained. We have to treasure it, and we must not let our guard down. Countries around the world continue to be plagued by threats of terrorism. Singapore is no exception. With continued acts of terrorism breaking out everywhere, it is even more necessary for Singaporeans to stay united, strengthen our total defence, and improve all citizens' ability to cope.

The SAF Day Combined Rededication Ceremony for the West Zone, that our Chamber is hosting today, has seen a strong participation of 113 organisations, including local SMEs, MNCs, government agencies, statutory boards, non-profit organisations and 8 Trade associations. I am pleased to announce that all participating organisations have agreed to strengthen their support to NS by attaining the NS Mark accreditation today. In a while, they will jointly sign a declaration to support their NSmen employees in fulfilling their NS obligations, acquire skills, and to commit their civil assets and services in support of Total Defence and support our nation in national crises or emergencies. Together, we commit to work hard to strengthen our country's safety and defence.

In closing, I would like to thank our partner organisations, the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command, and JTC Corporation, as well as all business representatives, for your support and attendance today. May we all maintain vigilance and stand united in defence of Singapore!