

## **SAF DAY COMBINED REDEDICATION CEREMONY 2025 (ZONE 3)**

### **SPEECH BY SCCCI PRESIDENT KHO CHOON KENG**

**1 JULY 2025**

**SCCCI BUILDING**

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs,

Major-General Kelvin Fan Sui Siong, Chief of Air Force, Republic of  
Singapore Air Force,

SAF Representatives,

SCCCI Council Members,

Trade Association and Corporate Members,

Distinguished Guests,

Good morning!

1. It is a great honour to join all of you at this year's SAF Day Combined Rededication Ceremony. On behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI), I extend a warm welcome to all and express our utmost respect to all Full-time National Servicemen (NSFs) and Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen)!
2. In recent years, the global landscape has become increasingly volatile, with conflicts and wars breaking out in different parts of the world. From Europe to the Middle East and Asia-Pacific region, geopolitical tensions have risen significantly. The shifting global trade order and increasing instability serve as a stark reminder of the responsibility we all bear in defending our country. Coupled with

rapid advancements in technology, it is more critical than ever for us to prioritise our national interests and the bigger picture as we remain vigilant and strengthen our national defence capabilities.

3. Singapore's 60-year nation-building journey stands as a testament to the power of unity – “regardless of race, language or religion”. The prosperity, security and happiness we enjoy today are only possible because we stand together as one united people. We must always remember that national defence is not the responsibility of our soldiers alone; it is our collective duty across government agencies, companies large and small, and all Singaporeans. As a small nation with limited natural resources, all that we have today is built on the sacrifices of our forefathers. We must remember our roots and stay united to defend our sovereignty and safeguard our peace and security.
4. Today, we express our heartfelt appreciation to the SAF for their loyal service to the nation. We also thank the many employers here for supporting their NSmen employees to attend their in-camp training. I am heartened that many companies represented here today are receiving national accreditation for their strong support towards NS! This demonstrates the spirit of unity and patriotism amongst Singaporeans, and also affirms the indispensable role that businesses play as part of our national defence.
5. Since Singapore's early years of independence, SCCCI has actively supported national defence. Guided by the belief that we must “have a country to have a home”, our forefathers raised funds for the National Defence Foundation and encouraged eligible male citizens to serve NS. SCCCI has always stood in solidarity with the nation and strongly supports Total Defence. In celebration of SG60 which is a key milestone, SCCCI has specially produced the video that we watched earlier on. It features the personal stories of our Council Members Mr Ang Kiam Meng and Mr Lim Chee Kean, together with their children, on their commitment to NS. In addition, we have specially created an SCCCI SG60 commemorative medallion, inscribed with the four Chinese characters “*jin zhong bao*

*guo*” (To Serve the Country with Utmost Loyalty) from the 1967 medallion as seen in the video earlier. This medallion is presented to all participating companies today as a token of our respect and appreciation!

6. Looking ahead, SCCCI will continue to uphold this same spirit of conviction and confidence. As we support the growth and transformation of businesses, we remain equally committed to supporting our national defence and fostering a more united and resilient multiracial society. Economic progress, social cohesion and national defence are deeply interlinked and have together laid the strong foundation for Singapore over the past 60 years. In the next 60 years, the road ahead may not be easy, but if we continue to stand together as one united people and uphold our principles, we will weather every storm and see the rainbow that follows.
7. Once again, I sincerely thank Minister Vivian Balakrishnan for personally officiating today’s ceremony. I also thank Major-General Kelvin Fan Sui Siong and everyone for attending today. Let us continue to work hand in hand to strengthen our national defence and build a more prosperous nation!

In closing, please allow me to conclude in English:

8. It is my great honour to have all of you join us at this year’s SAF Day Combined Rededication Ceremony. I warmly welcome everyone and express my deep respect to all who serve and support our national defence. With rising global tensions and fast-changing circumstances and environment, we are reminded that peace must be protected through collective effort. Defence is not just the responsibility of soldiers – it requires the full support of our people and businesses. SCCCI has upheld this spirit of patriotism since Singapore’s independence, and I am extremely proud and honoured that many SCCCI members are being recognised today for supporting NSmen to attend their in-camp training. Together, let us continue to build a strong and united Singapore we can all be proud

of. Lastly, thank you Minister Vivian Balakrishnan for gracing this ceremony and thank you everyone for your presence and support. Thank you!

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