

## SAVH President's opening speech for 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Dinner

A very good evening to our Guest-of-Honour, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Finance , distinguished guests, esteemed clients and volunteers, ladies and gentlemen.(1)

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our twofold and joint celebration tonight. This evening we mark Singapore's Golden Jubilee, along with SAVH's 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary. (2)

Half a century ago, many doubted Singapore could make a success of herself. Today Singapore enjoys first world status and stands on par with many great nations of the world. Our little red dot has gained global recognition. This is because God has blessed our nation, our leaders and our people for over five decades. (3)

Indeed, it has not always been plain sailing; in spite of our ups and downs, we have triumphed and prevailed (by God's grace) against all odds. We thank God and all our dedicated leaders, who have governed and continue to govern Singapore. We thank them all for their devotion and allegiance to our nation, and particularly now, we remember our founding Prime Minister and Minister Mentor. We fervently wish him a timely recovery, so as to partake of our coming of age, SG50 Celebrations. (4)

Especial mention to our pioneer generation whose e'spirit de corps, tenacity and resilience have seen us through an ever- changing landscape, oftentimes arduous and invariably challenging. They have served our nation to their utmost capacity and deserve a well-earned rest. (4FD)

Being inclusive is a key hallmark of any developed nation, and is the foundation and rock bed of Singapore's success story, shaping the Singapore of today whilst paving the way of the Singapore of the future. (5FD)

SAVH programs and initiatives have already been screened through our corporate video. However, I would like to state that our Day Care Project, that is included in this video, is still in its nascent development. As soon as we are confident that there is a pressing need, we will launch it. (5)

The clients, whom we have helped, although visually impaired, are far from down and out. With courage and drive, they return to the community, able to fend for themselves and lead proactive lives. Today, some are entrepreneurs in their own right; some thrive as masseurs and buskers, while others act as consultants to start-up companies (SMEs). Those with artistic flair, flourish as song writers and authors. Later on, one of these novelists will be speaking to you about his fourth book. (6)

This evening we are proud to showcase assorted performances by our clients, encapsulating the essence of being uniquely Singaporean. I would like to thank all our committed volunteers, faithful donors, loyal staff and finally our steadfast clients all of whom have made tonight's event possible.(7)

We are indebted to our Guest-of-Honour, DPM, for gracing our celebration tonight. Therefore without further ado, please join me in raising your glasses in a toast to our beloved nation, and SAVH. (8)

May God bless Singapore and SAVH. (9)

Thank-you. (10)

09.03.15