

**SPEECH FOR MR TEE TUA BA, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE RED CROSS CHAIRMAN,
AT RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR 2017 AT SUNTEC CONVENTION CENTRE
CONCOURSE ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 10AM**

Mrs Josephine Teo

Minister in Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Manpower

Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning. I am very glad to welcome you to the Singapore Red Cross International Bazaar. I wish to thank all of you for sacrificing your Saturday to make a meaningful contribution to humanity. In particular, I wish to thank Minister Josephine Teo for making time to be here to lend her support for this cause.

The International Bazaar is a traditional fundraiser organised by Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the globe, to unite the foreign and local community in solidarity of the less fortunate, and to promote international friendship and understanding.

Since the Singapore Red Cross organised its first International Bazaar 23 years ago in 1994, it has grown from strength to strength. Today, we are proud to present a fiesta put together by close to 20 diplomatic missions and 50 groups, including corporates, civic groups, schools and friends of Red Cross. We have come together, from diverse backgrounds and cultures, with one common purpose - to serve humanity and save lives.

Your support means the world to us. Your generous contributions enables us to provide **TransportAid** to assist persons with disability, so they can access medical treatment; **FoodAid** to vulnerable and skipped-generation families; **Home Monitoring & Eldercare** to support seniors living alone and for community-ageing-in-place; and the **Red Cross Home for the Disabled** and Day Activity Centre, where we care for over a hundred persons with severe and multiple disability.

Later this afternoon, a MediaCorp artiste, Ms Ya Hui will be joining us. I am glad to note that she has recently been appointed as Singapore Red Cross' new Celebrity Ambassador. I congratulate her and wish her a meaningful volunteering journey with us.

On behalf of my team, I wish to thank Suntec Singapore for its generous venue and publicity sponsorship. This has been an enjoyable partnership, and we look to many more collaborations in future.

I wish to thank the diplomatic community for your passionate partnership and generous contributions. Your presence, handicrafts, local snacks and performances bring rich colours and flavours to our Bazaar, and gives us a glimpse into your country's rich culture, heritage and traditions.

I also wish to thank all our other stallholders, including local and international brands and enterprises, for joining us in presenting an array of food and beverages, specially crafted items, games and activities in support of humanity. Special thanks to all our performers for making this a world stage - we are grateful to all dancers, singers, cheerleaders, magicians and many more for volunteering with us. Lastly, I thank my fellow dedicated volunteers and hardworking staff who have worked round-the-clock to make this a reality.

Most importantly, we thank everyone who's bought charity coupons to enjoy the bazaar, and all those who've gifted your coupons to our beneficiaries as a shopping treat. Thank you for your support for our humanitarian cause!

I wish you all an enjoyable time at our International Bazaar - shopping, feasting, and enjoying the performances lined up for you.

Thank you.