

**SPEECH FOR MR TEE TUA BA, SINGAPORE RED CROSS CHAIRMAN,
WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY &
CHAMPION DONOR RECOGNITION CEREMONY
GARDENS BY THE BAY, 23 JUNE 2018 AT 10.10AM**

Minister Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education

Dr Mimi Choong, CEO, Health Sciences Authority

Distinguished blood donors, bloodmobile organisers

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1 Good morning. It is my honour to welcome you to the 15th World Blood Donor Day and Champion Blood Donor Recognition Ceremony.

2 It's remarkable how far the National Blood Programme has come over the years. Last year, we transfused more than 110,000 units of blood – a huge increase from the 26,000 units transfused in 1967. Our ability to meet our nation's blood needs is due to the dedication and commitment of each one of you, our donors and bloodmobile organisers. You have helped to ensure a healthy and constant supply of blood at all times. Families and friends, please join me in giving our dedicated group of lifesavers a round of applause.

3 However, we must never become complacent in thinking that a sustainable blood supply will always be guaranteed. Maintaining a robust national blood programme will always be a challenge, not least given Singapore's aging population. That is why the Singapore Red Cross and the Health Sciences Authority are continually exploring ways to enhance the blood donation experience.

4 One way we hope to do so is through the development of digital services, which we target to roll out to all blood banks by early next year. With an e-registration system, donors can check their eligibility to donate at their convenience. The e-system will also pre-fill your health assessment questionnaire with your particulars automatically. You only need to print it out after you have registered upon your arrival at the blood banks. While resting after giving blood, you can also book

your next appointment and provide feedback electronically. Through these services, we hope to enable a more seamless and pleasant experience that would encourage all of you to donate more regularly.

5 But our focus today is on recognising and celebrating your donation milestones. Thanks to you, we collected more than 116,000 units of blood last year, benefitting more than 30,000 patients in Singapore. In recognition of your contributions, we have partnered with Gardens by the Bay to offer all champion donors and bloodmobile organisers two complimentary tickets each to visit the Cloud Forest and Flower Dome. We have also set up a photography exhibition outside to showcase the other community services that the Singapore Red Cross provides to the less fortunate. I hope you will take the time to explore these attractions and learn more about our other services.

6 On behalf of the Singapore Red Cross and the Health Sciences Authority, thank you once again for your presence here today, and for your enduring efforts in supporting the National Blood Programme. I wish you an enjoyable day here at Gardens by the Bay.

7 Happy World Blood Donor Day!