

Media Release

To News Editors

**PRESIDENT HALIMAH YACOB JOINS 12,000 NSMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES
AT MY FAMILY FIESTA AT SAFRA PUNGGOL**

Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) and their families had a memorable time of bonding at My Family Fiesta at SAFRA Punggol today.

The event, which attracted over 12,000 visitors, was organised by SAFRA Punggol and HeyBaby, a community movement to celebrate and support marriage and parenthood, as part of My Family Weekend 2018 initiative by Families for Life to strengthen family ties.

One of the key highlights was the SAFRA Punggol Diaper Dash, which saw over 350 babies aged 6 to 18 months old, take part in a 3-metre race over the weekend. Excited parents cajoled their little ones with their favourite toys and gave them an abundance of hugs and kisses at the finish line.

President Halimah Yacob, who is Patron of SAFRA, graced the event as Guest-of-Honour on her first official visit to SAFRA. President Halimah also sounded off the start of the race for the Families for Life Leopard Crawlers category for babies 10 to 12 months old.

The event was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Mr Teo Chee Hean, Senior Minister of State for Defence and President of SAFRA Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Minister of State for Transport, Communications and Information Dr Janil Puthucheary and Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs and National Development Ms Sun Xueling. DPM Teo, Dr Janil and Ms Sun are also Members of Parliament for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC.

President Halimah commented, "I am heartened to see NSmen and their families bonding at today's event. Family is close to the hearts of Singaporeans and anchors our NSmen's sense of rootedness. Thank you, NSmen, for staying rooted and grounded to your responsibilities."

Families for Life Council Member, Ms Sim Siew Moon said, "Families need to make the conscious effort to get together to have conversations and connect with each other, in order to strengthen family ties. We are glad to have the support of community partners like SAFRA to provide fun and exciting activities in conjunction with My Family Weekend (31 August to 2 September) to provide our families with more bonding opportunities during this special, long weekend. We urge our people to not overlook the importance of strong, resilient families in the midst of our busy lives, and make the conscious decision to say 'I Choose Family Time'."

To show her appreciation for NSmen's contributions towards national defence, President Halimah also penned her personal thank-you message on a specially created art piece titled, 'Defending Singapore, Our Home'.

Depicting NSmen from the three Services of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) as well as various Singapore icons such as the Merlion, Housing Development Board flats, the Toa Payoh Dragon Playground and Gardens by the Bay, the art piece reflects our NSmen's sacred duty to defend our nation, our families, and Singaporeans' way of life.

The 1.5-metre by 1.2-metre acrylic painting was done by students and teachers of Artary, an art school located in SAFRA Punggol. The project was led by CPT (NS) Sebastian Tan, 34, who had served National Service in the Republic of Singapore Navy, and is the Operations Manager at Artary.

My Family Fiesta at SAFRA Punggol also featured a host of other family activities which offered fun opportunities for families to bond. These included play time at the Splash @ Kidz Amaze indoor water playground, cycling, kayaking, bowling at Orchid Bowl, singing at Manekineko, as well as parent-and-child sessions at Taekwondonomics. SAFRA Punggol also collaborated with Dads for Life to reach out to fathers residing in the north-eastern part of Singapore with additional activities such as pastry-making to encourage father-child bonding at the event.

Through such collaborative efforts between various community groups, businesses, companies and government agencies, marriage and parenthood can be made even more achievable, enjoyable and celebrated as Singapore continues to be a great place for families.

Visit www.safra.sg/familyfiesta and www.safra.sg/diaperdash for more information.

About SAFRA National Service Association

SAFRA was formed in 1972 to provide for the social and recreational needs of NSmen and their families through quality sports, social, educational and cultural programmes to recognise NSmen for their contributions to National Defence. SAFRA currently has a network of six clubs conveniently located in Jurong, Mount Faber, Punggol, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Yishun. Complementing the modern facilities at SAFRA clubs are a host of quality membership benefits and activities specially packaged for over 600,000 members and their families.

About Families for Life Council

Families for Life's vision is to build strong and resilient families because that makes for stronger communities and better individual well-being.

We Listen. We listen to the issues that Singaporean families are facing.

We Explore and Promote. We bring people and organisations together to create platforms for family bonding and to engage Singaporeans in conversations about families.

We Voice. We voice out concerns that people have on family issues and continue this conversation with our partners and the community. The Council is chaired by Ching Wei Hong, Chief Operating Officer of OCBC Bank.

Visit us at www.familiesforlife.sg.

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