

## Media Release

To News Editors

### RECORD NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS SWAM FOR CHARITY AT SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2019

- *Strong support from the Republic of Singapore Navy with close to 3,000 servicemen and women participating in this year's event*

A record of over 4,200 participants took part in SAFRA Swim for Hope this year including many Operationally Ready National Servicemen (NSmen) and their families. Into its 9th edition, the event was held over four days from 10 to 13 October 2019 at five SAFRA clubs, and participants swam a record total of 229,661 laps. A total of \$178,097.59 was raised for charity, and this will go towards helping those in need from three beneficiaries – Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore, Down Syndrome Association and the Singapore Armed Forces Care Fund.

The event drew strong support from the Republic of Singapore Navy, with close to 3,000 regulars and national servicemen from Navy Headquarters, Fleet, Maritime Security Task Force, Maritime Training & Doctrine Command, Naval Logistics Command and the Naval Diving Unit participating in the event. Over 220 NSmen and their children participated in the Families for Life category, while 118 children swam in the Junior category, catered for six to 12 year olds. Supported by the Families for Life Council, the Families for Life category is a special addition to the event to encourage parent-child bonding, while enjoying fun sports together.

Senior Minister of State for Defence and President of SAFRA Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman was the Guest-of-Honour at the event's finale held today at SAFRA Tampines. Dr Maliki presented prizes to the winners of the Open, Families for Life and Junior categories this evening. He also presented the cheque from the proceeds of the charity event to the three beneficiaries.

The Families for Life category was won by Mr Lim Yan Hong and his 12-year-old son, Lim Kiat Yu, who together swam a total of 589 laps. The Junior category was won by 12-year-old Gabriel Leong Wen Jie, who swam a total of 591 laps. The Open category was won by Gaytant Stijn Paul A., who swam a total of 1,277 laps, while 15-year-old Jerron Chua Jing Lun showed that youths were equally strong in the pool by swimming a total of 1,152 laps to take the third position in the category.

National diver Jonathan Chan, and para-athletes Chew Zi Ling, Lim Kong Boon and Wong Zhi Wei, participated in the event. A total of 35 swimmers from Special Olympics Singapore also participated in the charity swim, inspiring many other participants to go the extra lap.

For the first time, participants who swam at all five SAFRA clubs had their total number of laps swam printed on their event t-shirts.

Kindly refer to the attached **Annex A** for the fact sheet on SAFRA Swim for Hope 2019 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 450,000 members (as of 31 March 2019) and their families.

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## SAFRA SWIM FOR HOPE 2019

**FACT SHEET****Background**

Introduced in 2011 by SAFRA Tampines, SAFRA Swim for Hope provides an opportunity for National Servicemen and their families to contribute to charitable causes, while promoting fitness and bonding through swimming. A summary of the key highlights in the past 3 editions of the event are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>	<b>No. of Laps</b>	<b>Funds Raised</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>2016</b>	1,954	132,752	\$106,592	Introduced Families for Life Parent-and-Child category
<b>2017</b>	2,145	210,901	\$153,648	Introduced NS50 Individual and Team Challenge to commemorate NS50
<b>2018</b>	2,306	111,099	\$214,880	Junior category was introduced.

**2019 Event Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Timing</b>
<b>Thurs, 10 Oct</b>	SAFRA Tampines SAFRA Yishun SAFRA Jurong	9am – 5pm
<b>Fri, 11 Oct</b>	SAFRA Yishun SAFRA Mount Faber	10am – 10pm
<b>Sat, 12 Oct</b>	SAFRA Toa Payoh SAFRA Jurong	10am - 10pm
<b>Sun, 13 Oct</b>	SAFRA Tampines	9am – 5pm

## **2019 Beneficiaries**

### **Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore**

Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS) is a social service agency established in 1957. CPAS provides persons with cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities with early intervention, special education, rehabilitation services, day activity centre programmes as well as vocational training and gainful employment in Singapore.

Through active advocacy and the support of equal opportunities for all persons with cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities, CPAS hopes to empower these individuals by helping them realise their full potential and lead fulfilled, dignified lives.

### **Down Syndrome Association Singapore**

Down Syndrome Association Singapore [DSA(S)] is a primarily self-funding, non-profit social service agency with an IPC (Institute of Public Character) status, which works closely and regularly with healthcare and educational professionals, and voluntary welfare organisations. The Association is affiliated to international bodies such as the International Federation of Down Syndrome and the Asia-Pacific Federation of Down Syndrome, and regularly works in tandem with other Down syndrome associations worldwide.

### **SAF Care Fund**

The SAF Care Fund is set up to provide additional support to SAF servicemen who are severely disabled due to military service. MINDEF and SAF provide a broad range of welfare support to assist injured servicemen and families of deceased servicemen. Over and above existing frameworks, the SAF Care Fund provides additional financial support to severely disabled servicemen who require long-term care and support. The Fund enables members of the public to make contributions and show their support to injured servicemen and MINDEF will provide a one-for-one matching grant.