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MEDIA RELEASE

NTUC WOMEN & FAMILY UNIT AND PAP WOMEN'S WING ORGANISE MONTH-LONG CELEBRATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

1. In celebration of International Women's Day, the Women's Wing (WW) of the People's Action Party (PAP) and National Trades Union Congress' Women and Family Unit (NTUC WAF) have organised a series of programmes in March to celebrate the aspirations of women and galvanise Singaporeans to build a more sustainable Singapore.
2. As a curtain-raiser to the month of celebrations, Women's Wing and NTUC WAF, in partnership with the Textile and Fashion Industry Training Centre (TaF.tc), organised the REIMAGINE Fashion Showcase today at Punggol Shore¹, featuring nine "reimagined" work outfits designed by local designers for women in various occupations. The outfits, two of which were made from sustainable materials like organic cotton, took three weeks to produce, from design to sewing. The event was launched by Mrs Josephine Teo, Chairperson of PAP Women's Wing and Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Home Affairs, together with Ms Sim Ann, Chairperson of this year's Organising Committee and Vice-Chairperson of Women's Wing, Ms Mary Liew, President of NTUC, and Ms Yeo Wan Ling, NTUC Director for U SME and Women and Family and Member of Parliament for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC.

¹ The REIMAGINE Fashion Showcase will be moved to be displayed at Oasis Terraces on 7 March 2021 after its launch at PCF Sparkletots @ Punggol Shore on 6 March 2021.



3. In this vein, NTUC WAF will be launching its Passion 2 Profit (P2P) initiative, which aims to carve out alternative livelihood options for women by helping them turn their skills or passion projects into profitable ventures and income supplement. NTUC WAF will be collaborating with TaF.tc on the first run of the P2P where trainees will undertake a robust alterations specialist training programme. Besides alteration skills, they will also study how to start and operate their own businesses. NTUC WAF and TaF.tc hope to train 100 women in the next year.
4. Across the month, NTUC WAF will also be coordinating satellite celebratory activities organised by affiliated unions and associations, webinars, as well as a career fair featuring jobs specially curated for women that offer flexibility for caregiving responsibilities.
5. The launch event also virtually presented programmes, led by PAP women Members of Parliament Ms Cheryl Chan, Ms Hany Soh, Ms Nadia Samdin and Ms Rachel Ong, and happening concurrently across the island to involve Singaporeans to build a more sustainable home in Singapore (Refer to Annex A for the activities). Some one thousand activists were expected to join the activities, both physical and virtual, with the former complying with COVID-19 safe management measures.
6. Mrs Josephine Teo said that it is important for Singaporeans to move forward as a society to support and promote sustainability as a way of life. The desire to reduce, reuse, and recycle comes naturally to many women. “The knowledge gained from these activities will empower women in Singapore to do even more to promote the sustainability agenda and play a part in preserving a green and beautiful Singapore for our future generations.”



7. Ms Yeo Wan Ling shared her observation that women are embarking on non-linear career paths and venturing into unconventional careers. Some of these occupations with good career progressions and career prospects are being featured through the “reimagined” work outfits showcased today. “We want to inspire all women, not just young girls but also back to work women to be bold in their career choices. NTUC WAF endeavours to create new possibilities for women's career options and to support women in reaching their full potential.”

For more information:

Tan Pei Qi (Ms)

NTUC Strategic Communications

Email: Peiqi_Tan@ntuc.org.sg

HP: 8617 6585

Kok Siew Huan (Ms)

Communications Manager

Email: Kok.siew.huan@pap.org.sg

HP: 9878 0259



Annex A

Women's Wing celebrations relating to sustainability across the island

1. North West (NW) District: Active recycling drive

18 PAP branches within the district, in collaboration with Tzu Chi Foundation (Singapore) and Sembwaste Pte Ltd, conducted an active recycling drive by setting up recycling points on 6 March 2021 from 9 to 1130 am. Residents who brought in recyclable materials learned how to sort their items for more effective recycling. Seeds suitable for indoor planting were given as a token of appreciation to over 2000 residents for their participation and to commemorate International Women's Day.

Prior to the event, Organising Chairperson for NW district and MP for Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC Ms Hany Soh and 150 Women's Wing activists attended a recycling awareness workshop in a blended learning format at Tzu Chi Eco Awareness Centre and over a webinar on 27 February to have a better understanding of how to set up a recycling collection point and the process of active recycling.

2. South East (SE) District: Making sustainable bags and adopting sustainable gardening

WWs in SE District organised three workshops - two virtual and one physical - on 6 March from 9am to 11am. MP for East Coast GRC Cheryl Chan and fellow MP from the same GRC Jessica Tan joined 12 participants on site at PAP Changi-Simei Branch to learn how to turn used T-shirt into sustainable fashion tote bags. Over 50 participants also learnt how to make their sustainable tote bags through the virtual workshop conducted by Eileen Yap, Founder of



Singapore Fashion Runway. Separately, MP Tin Peiling and Minister of State Tan Kiat How joined the South East families online to learn how to grow leafy vegetables at home using food waste as fertilizer, create their own self-watering pot and eco-enzymes.

3. South West (SW) District: Going green begins at home!

Over 100 women activists and women MPs representing the South West district, led by MP for West Coast GRC Rachel Ong participated in two concurrent events on 6 March 2020. The first event was a hybrid workshop via live and Zoom designed with two objectives in mind, Recycling Right with Melissa Tan, Chairman of Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore as well as upcycling unused clothes into fashionable mask straps with Susan Lim, an upcycling instructor.

Over the past two weeks, women activists made a total of 2,000 mask straps using cleaned recyclable materials, in preparation for the second event that took place this morning, Mask Strap Gift Distribution! This mask strap gift pack includes a guide on making the strap and a message on recycling wisely, will be shared with 2,000 members of the public across several locations in the South West District. Several male MPs, including Minister S. Iswaran and Gan Kim Yong, MPs Don Wee and Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim also joined in the distribution of mask straps. Together, they hope to share this gift and encourage Singaporeans to do our part in a cleaner and greener Singapore!

4. Central District: Celebrating sustainability in our food habits, homes and reducing food waste.

MP for Ang Mo Kio GRC Nadia Samdin and activists organised a tour at Sprout Hub, one of Singapore's largest urban farms growing strawberries, rearing



chickens, and black soldier flies, and attended a hands-on composting workshop between 9am to 11am on 6 March 2021. This experience allowed women activists a personal insight into growing edibles and your own food consumption habits. This will also be attended by Minister Indranee Rajah, Minister of State Gan Siow Huang, Mayor Denise Phua, and other women MPs including Joan Pereira and Ng Ling Ling.

Central district also organised an afternoon talk on sustainability in our homes and wet markets. Pamela Chia, author of the book "Wet Table to Market" and content owner of [SGPNoodles](#), a one-stop online resource on Singaporean food heritage, discussed how to promote sustainability through food with the dynamic mother and daughter duo behind [Spice Zi Kitchen](#).



Annex B

Quotes from women MPs leading the activities

1. MP for Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC Hany Soh

“I believe that that we can do more as a community to embrace sustainability as our way of life. Active recycling is one of the ways in which the community can come together to do more for the environment. I plan to conduct a regular active recycling drive at Woodgrove to encourage more residents to recycle and upcycle.”

2. MP for East Coast GRC Cheryl Chan

“Sustainability begins with our daily actions. From recognising the need to reduce usage to creative ways of reusing items and up-cycling, we can all make a difference.”

3. MP for West Coast GRC Rachel Ong

“We are very grateful for our women activists at South West who care deeply for our people and our community. My hope on this International Women's Day is that together, we will continue to encourage one another to be intentional in doing our part in creating a cleaner and greener Singapore!”

4. MP for Ang Mo Kio GRC Nadia Samdin

“Food is an integral part of our culture and lives in Singapore. Our team hopes that by better understanding the impact of our purchasing and consumption habits and learning how we can bring sustainability into our homes and kitchens, more women feel empowered to embark on their own sustainability journeys and can encourage their families along as well. A big thank you to all partners, speakers, and participants.”