

BACKGROUND TO THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME (CEP)

Why the CEP?

After the London bombings in July 2005, we asked ourselves whether we should do more to enhance our social resilience. While we think that our good communal relations built up over the years would stand us in good stead, we also realise that this cannot be taken for granted.

2 We know that, in the immediate aftermath of a crisis, it could be difficult for communities to remain calm and avoid knee-jerk reactions. **Communities need to trust each other and know what needs to be done to stay united before any crisis strikes.** Having strong networks of trust and being committed to maintaining good relations is important.

3 **But we need to do more – we need to exercise and prepare people to know what to do and what to expect in a crisis.**

What is the CEP?

4 The Community Engagement Programme (CEP) is a long-term effort to ensure that we are better equipped to maintain our social cohesion and harmony, should a crisis happen in Singapore. We want to bring together Singaporeans from different communities, to strengthen inter-communal bonds, and to put in place response plans to help deal with potential communal tensions after an incident, be it a terrorist attack or a civil emergency. We want to build networks of trust that are resilient and can come forward to help Singapore stand united in a crisis.

5 More details are at the Singapore United web portal (www.SingaporeUnited.sg).

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