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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **First Public Service Week in May**

- Public officers to pledge commitment and dedication to serve

The Public Service will hold its first Public Service Week from 14 to 20 May 2008. Some 110,000 public officers will pledge their commitment and dedication to serve Singapore and Singaporeans at observance ceremonies here and abroad.

The Public Service Week aims to remind all public officers of their role in advancing Singapore. It will be a time to recognise the good work done by the officers, as well as forge among them, a sense of pride in being part of the Public Service.

This will be an annual event.

With a combined workforce accounting for about 4% of Singapore's labour force, the Public Service comprises 15 Ministries, nine organs of state, and more than 60 statutory boards. The week's activities, which will be organised centrally by the Public Service Division as well as individually by each respective agency, will bring officers together to celebrate their collective contributions.

#### **Observance ceremony and pledge**

As part of the Week's activities, Ministries, statutory boards and organs of state will hold agency-based activities to better engage their officers. The Observance Ceremony led by the Permanent Secretary or Chief Executive will see officers pledging their commitment and dedication to serve Singapore and Singaporeans. MFA's Overseas Missions will also hold similar observance ceremonies, to emphasise that public officers serve all Singaporeans, both in Singapore and abroad.

## PS21 Star Service Awards, Blood donation drive, Sports Carnival

During the week, there will be centralised events such as the PS21 Star Service Award which is an annual event that recognises officers who have delivered excellent service. There will also be a community involvement programme for officers to contribute to society through a Service-wide blood donation drive. A series of sports competitions will culminate with a sports carnival over the weekend of the Public Service Week.

### Learning journeys for public officers

There will also be learning journeys for the officers to visit government departments and facilities e.g. Tuas Incineration Plant & Pulau Semakau Landfill, North Light School, Polytechnics, ITE Colleges and Community Development Councils to learn about operations on the ground.

Such visits are important for our officers get a better understanding of each others' work. This will help them think beyond their own agencies when addressing issues and improving services. It is hoped that the annual Public Service Week will encourage greater cooperation across agencies. This will enable the officers to better serve the public as a networked government.

The week will end with a reception hosted by President for about 800 public officers at the Istana on 20 May 08.

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