

**SPEECH BY MR K SHANMUGAM, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND MINISTER FOR LAW AT SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF  
UNDERSTANDING - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS AND  
LAW SOCIETY 2014 ON FRIDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2014, 6.30PM  
AT TREETOPS, LEVEL 5 AT SCAPE**

1. Thank you for inviting me to witness this MOU Signing between the Office of the Mayors, Community Development Councils, People's Association and The Law Society of Singapore.
2. In 2007, the Ministry of Law worked with The Law Society of Singapore to set up legal clinics within the community. The aim was to provide free basic legal guidance to the community. With the support of the Mayors and CDCs, the first Community Legal Clinics were established at the North West District and South East District.
3. Over the last seven years, demand for this service has increased. Residents have also requested for legal clinics to be established in other locations to facilitate greater accessibility.
4. The MOU today will see an expanded collaboration between the CDCs and The Law Society of Singapore. New Community Legal Clinics will be set up so that there will be one in every District. They will coordinate their work with the other independent legal clinics and link up with social services agencies within the community.
5. The Law Society will also seek to provide greater support to these Community Legal Clinics by attracting the participation from more volunteer lawyers. I want to extend my deepest appreciation to these volunteer lawyers. The contribution of their time makes all this possible, and their spirit of generosity sets an example for all of us.
6. This cooperative effort is also a testament to the strong leadership of the Law Society, CDCs and the People's Association, without which, this would not have happened. I am confident that, working together, the profession and the government will continue to strengthen access to justice for those in the community who need it the most.
7. Thank you