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**SPEECH FOR CHAIRMAN OF LAW SOCIETY PRO BONO SERVICES
MR GREGORY VIJAYENDRAN
FOR LAUNCH OF LAW AWARENESS WEEKS @ CDC 2018
ON SATURDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2018
AT WISMA GEYLANG SERAI**

Senior Minister of State for Law and Health, Mr Edwin Tong,
Mayors,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

A very warm welcome to the launch of Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC 2018.

About LAWs @ CDC

1. Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC started in 2015. It is our flagship law awareness programme.
2. This highly valued partnership with the People's Association and the 5 CDCs, supported by NUS, SMU and SUSS through a multi-party MOU, has enabled us to reach out to the public on an unprecedented scale.
3. Before 2015, the Law Society organized biennial law awareness projects at public areas which usually lasted no more than half a day. While these events were well-received, our outreach was very much limited due to space and resources constraints.
4. In 2016, Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC saw a total of 59 talks attended by more than 2,400 participants. It bears highlighting that what started as a week of legal talks has since multiplied into weeks in 2017, allowing LSPBS to reach out to a greater audience.
5. We have 72 talks planned under LAWs @ CDC 2018 to be run over 6 weeks. As in previous years, Advance Planning is the most popular topic that has been requested, followed by Community and Neighbour Disputes.

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6. Family Law, the focus for this year, is one of the top topics and is complemented by Syariah Law which is being offered for the very first time. In fact, just over half of the talks requested deal with family-related issues.
7. This validates what we find at the Community Legal Clinics that have been operating since September 2014 with the signing of the MOU with the People's Association and the 5 CDCs - a third of the cases seeking legal advice are on family-related issues.

Certificates of Appreciation

8. Without a doubt, this would not have been possible without the unwavering support of all our volunteers.
9. I wish to take this opportunity to record my deepest gratitude to the lawyers who selflessly attend at the Community Legal Clinics to provide members of the public with legal advice, the anchor law firms who had sent their lawyers to the Community Legal Clinics and the students who had tirelessly augmented the co-ordination and logistics to make this event a reality.
10. My heartfelt thanks also go out to all the speakers of this year's Law Awareness Weeks who are sacrificing time away from loved ones for a worthy cause.
11. We are hopeful that numbers will continue to grow in the years to come and that LAWs @ CDC will remain the nation's premier public legal literacy program.

Thank You

12. Once again, we would like to express heartfelt thanks to our volunteer lawyers, law firms and law students, without whom this event would not be possible.
13. A Big thank you to all of you for contributing your knowledge, time and effort so generously. Enjoy the rest of the evening.