

**SPEECH BY MR TEO SER LUCK, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH & SPORTS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) FRAMEWORK FOR SPORTS ON MON, 7 JAN, 2.45PM AT THE SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL**

CEO of the Singapore Sports Council Mr Oon Jin Teik,

Secretary General of the Singapore National Olympic Council, Mr Chris Chan

Deputy Chairman of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, Professor Lawrence Boo

President of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, Mr Johnny Tan

Executive Director of the Singapore Mediation Centre, Mr Loong Seng Onn

Ladies and gentlemen and other distinguished guests,

Good afternoon to one and all.

1 In recent years, there has been a concerted effort to push for sports development in Singapore. Today, there is greater awareness among Singaporeans on the benefits of sports, and more Singaporeans are participating and excelling in sports. In fact, our record away performance of 43 Gold Medals at the recent 24th SEA Games in Korat reflects our progress in sports.

2 As Singapore's sporting landscape continues to grow and evolve in various ways – such as bidding to host the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in 2010, the construction of the new Sports Hub, intensifying our campaign for Olympic glory – we would need to enhance our legal framework to complement our sporting developments. This includes having sufficient appeal channels for sports-related disputes to be resolved, as is done in the more developed sporting nations like the United States, UK, and Australia.

3 Today, we are here to witness the launch and signing of the MOU for Singapore's first Framework for Alternative Dispute Resolution for Sports, also known as 'ADR for Sports' in short. This initiative is spearheaded by the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) and developed in collaboration with the Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC), the Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC), the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (SI Arb).

4        Adapted from the various arbitration and mediation processes in the international sporting arena such as the International Court of Arbitration for Sports, the ADR Sports aims to resolve a broad spectrum of sports-related disputes such as athlete selection, liability issues, commercial rights matters and so on, in a timely and professional manner. The framework will leverage on the existing professional practices and expertise of the Singapore Mediation Centre, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators.

5        The recent dispute between Gino Ng and the Triathlon Association of Singapore (TAS) over selection to the SEA Games team was an unfortunate incident. However, I am pleased to note that the dispute was eventually successfully resolved through the mediation process. This incident exemplifies the need for a structured process of mediation and arbitration to ensure that disputes within the sporting fraternity can be resolved in the most amicable manner possible.

6        In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the parties who have supported and contributed to the formation of ADR Sports. As Singapore develops its sporting culture and infrastructure, the establishment of the ADR Sports will strengthen our position as a regional hub for sports development and best practices.

7        Thank you.