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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**BUILDING OUR SINGAPORE OF TOMORROW  
NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCE CEREMONY 2016**

**Friday, 5 August 2016** - 2016 marks the beginning of the next chapter in Singapore's history as we embarked on the next 50 years with a celebration of the diversity, harmony and unity that is uniquely Singapore. **Set against the backdrop of a fitting theme, Building Our Singapore of Tomorrow, MENDAKI's management and staff held their National Day Observance (NDO) Ceremony earlier this morning.**

**For the first time, MENDAKI invited kindergarteners from the Modern Montessori International to join in the celebration. Indeed their spirit of inquisitiveness and enthusiasm augurs well for Singapore as we forge ahead into an era of global cities. Indeed these young guests represent the future Singapore – a Singapore which is inclusive living harmoniously in spite of our differences bonded by our strong Asian values.**



***Building Singapore's future with the next generation – MENDAKI's neighbours – kindergarteners from Modern Montessori International pictured with Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Heads of Self Help Groups MENDAKI, CDAC, EA and SINDA***



***Dr Yaacob Ibrahim leading staff and kindergarteners in singing the national anthem and pledge-taking. Pictured from left to right are Mr Pok Cheng Chong (Executive Director, CDAC), Mdm Tuminah Sapawi (Chief Executive Director, MENDAKI), Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Mr Saktiandi Supaat (Member of Parliament, Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC), Mr Sallim Abdul Kadir (Member, MENDAKI Board of Directors). Not in picture: Ms Yvonne Pereira (2nd Vice President, Eurasian Association) and Mr Vinod Kumar (Director, Singapore Indian Development Association)***

The occasion was made more meaningful with the presence of guests from partner Self-Help Groups; the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), Eurasian Association (EA) and the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA). The camaraderie among the staff of the SHGs can be clearly seen through the activities such as the singing of community songs and team bonding games.

**Mr Pok Cheng Chong, Executive Director, CDAC** shared on what it means to be Singaporean, ***“One of Singapore's uniqueness is the diversity in our culture. I truly feel a sense of belonging especially within a society that values racial harmony and emphasises tolerance and acceptance towards each other.”***

**Mr Vinod Kumar, SINDA's Director Community Engagement & Volunteer Management** reflected on his experience when he was overseas and it made him realise how much he appreciates being in Singapore, ***“This is my home and I appreciate the security and safety of our country.”***





***Flag-raising and singing the national anthem in unison by Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, guests and the Modern Montessori International students.***



***Dr Yaacob together with the SHG leaders, staff and the MMI kindergarteners singing community songs***

We hope you can lend us coverage and capture the spirit of red and white unite in 'Building our Singapore of Tomorrow'.