

SPEECH FOR MR MASAGOS ZULKIFLI

Good morning everyone.

On behalf of the Tampines GRC MPs, may I welcome all of you here.

Since May 2007, Tampines GRC has worked closely with our tripartite partners, the Land Transport Authority and the Traffic Police to study if pedestrians and cyclists can share footways safely in Tampines.

DECISION ON 'CYCLING ON FOOTWAYS' TRIAL

1 I am pleased to announce today that, when the trial ends on 28 February 2010, cycling on footways will be legalized in Tampines after a regulatory framework is put in place. The tripartite decision came after careful thought, and after assessing the feedback received from residents. The tripartite committee concluded that while there is general acceptance of the trial in Tampines Town, cycling on footways is feasible and sustainable only if all three key features identified – infrastructure, education, and enforcement – are implemented together.

2 Hence, besides continuously improving the infrastructure and our education efforts, the tripartite committee has decided to strengthen the enforcement regime against reckless cyclists in Tampines. For this, the Tampines Town Council together with LTA and TP will be introducing a set of framework to regulate safe cycling on footways in Tampines. The by-laws will be

amended to allow the Tampines Town Council to take enforcement action against reckless cyclist on footways. The Police will continue to investigate those cases where injury is caused, under the existing laws. This is important as we do not condone reckless cycling which endangers the safety of other users on footways.

3 The new regulatory framework will be ready for implementation by 1 March 2010. Once the Town Council by-laws are enacted, the use of footways by cyclists will be legalised in Tampines Town, and the footways will become shared pathways for both pedestrians and cyclists.

4 The new cycling by-laws will allow the Town Council to take enforcement action against reckless cyclists as a last resort. Enforcement penalty by the Police would be more severe than the by-laws if it was necessary.

5 Under the new Tampines Town Council by-laws, offenders could be fined \$50 up to a maximum of \$1,000. The Town Council can also choose to take court action against the offender and the offender can be fined up to a maximum of \$5,000. We do not condone reckless cycling which endangers the safety of other users in shared footways.

LAUNCH OF SAFE CYCLING CLINICS

6 We are also stepping up our efforts to educate our residents on safe cycling. The tripartite committee will continue to carry out public education on

good cycling habits. To date, we have recruited 120 cycling wardens to help in educating cyclists and pedestrians on the safe sharing of footways.

7 I am pleased to announce that we are rolling out a series of Safe Cycling Clinics for Tampines Town, which is funded by Northeast CDC. The safe cycling clinics will be organized monthly for Tampines residents at the various divisions. The 1st Safe Cycling Clinic was held on 26 September this year. Student volunteers from Temasek Polytechnic, the Traffic Police and the Safe Cycling Taskforce will be conducting lessons on how to cycle safely during the clinics. These are part of our continuous efforts to ensure that residents learn how to cycle responsibly and safely in Tampines. Our vision is to make Tampines Town a model cycling town.

TAMPINES AS MODEL CYCLING TOWN

8 Cycling is an environmentally friendly and a healthy mode of transport and Tampines, being a compact town is an ideal choice for a model cycling town. Taking Tampines MRT station as a focal point, the furthest block is only 2 kilometres away. With facilities, schools and shops in close proximity, more and more residents are choosing to cycle as their preferred mode of transport to travel about in Tampines.

9 During the trial period, efforts and steps have been taken to improve the infrastructure and facilitate the safe sharing of the footways such as: the widening of existing footways and pedestrian crossings, the installation of 'Cyclist Dismount' signages by LTA and the construction of 2 stretches of new bicycle

paths, 2.3km long by the Town Council. LTA will also be constructing 6.9km of bicycle paths in the first half next year.

10 We hope that with the infrastructure improvements, regulatory framework, public education and enforcement efforts in place, cyclists and pedestrians can share footways safely and harmoniously, making Tampines Town a model cycling town.

11 Last but not least, I would like to extend my appreciation to the tripartite committee - the Tampines grassroots organisations, the LTA and the Traffic Police – and also to NParks and the Tampines Town Council for their hard work in this bold experiment to turn Tampines into a model cycling town in Singapore. I would also like to thank the North East CDC for their support in organizing the Safe Cycling Clinics.

Thank you.