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**SPEECH BY MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MR KHAW BOON WAN AT SEMBAWANG GRC COMMUNITY EVENT
ON 24 FEBRUARY 2013 AT 9.30 AM**

Master Plan Process

- 1 In Singapore, land use is governed by the Master Plan.**

- 2 The current Master Plan has been in place since 2008 and is due for an update. Later this year, a draft of Master Plan 2013 will be exhibited for public viewing and comments, after which it will be finalised sometime next year.**

Regionalisation Strategy

- 3 One underlying principle behind many of our master plans is to spread out our population and bring jobs closer to homes. This will save travelling time and make it convenient for Singaporeans.**

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- 4 This is not a new strategy. It first started with Tampines in 1992. Tampines Regional Centre is now very well developed, benefiting the residents living there. BTOs in Tampines are always over-subscribed.**

- 5 After Tampines, it was Jurong Regional Centre. We launched the Jurong Lake District Master Plan in 2008 and it will take us 15 years to fully develop the area. I am confident that it will bring immense benefits to**

residents living in the West. Jurong will in due course be as popular as Tampines.

Woodlands Regional Centre

6 Today, we launch the third regional centre in the North, the Woodlands Regional Centre. The plans are exciting and are shown in the exhibition. This regional centre will take full advantage of the unique features of Woodlands: open green and waterfront areas, Admiralty Park, and proximity to JB. It will be the northern gateway to Singapore.

7 When fully developed, there will be two distinct precincts in the Woodlands Regional Centre. For now, one is called the Woodlands North Coast and includes the area between Republic Polytechnic and the Woodlands Waterfront. It will be a waterfront destination with a vibrant mix of business, residential and lifestyle uses.

8 The other precinct, Woodlands Central, is around the Woodlands MRT station. It is planned as a commercial centre for residents to shop, eat, relax, and come together for community events. There will be retail malls that are inter-connected with our MRT stations and bus interchange.

9 There will be seamless pedestrian connections between these two precincts.

10 With 100ha of land available for development, the Woodlands Regional Centre will build on the Causeway Point. But will be many times bigger and more exciting. The North-South MRT line will soon be supplemented by Thomson Line and NS Expressway. Connectivity to the city and other parts of Singapore will expand manifold. Also, the Rapid Transit Link with JB opens up another platform of cross-border connection, in addition to the Causeway.

11 The Woodlands Regional Centre, like the predecessors in Tampines and Jurong, will take 15 - 20 years to fully develop. But over the next few years, we will begin to see some physical developments on the ground.

12 Woodlands will be a key part of the new North Coast Innovation Corridor. This Corridor spans Woodlands, Sembawang, the future Seletar Regional Centre—all the way to Punggol.

Invitation for Feedback

13 Apart from the panels displayed here, URA has also launched a website for the public to find out more and share your views and aspirations for these new possibilities in the North (www.ura.gov.sg/woodlands). Please also share with us your suggestions on the names of the two precincts.

14 With your feedback and consultation with stakeholders, the plans for Woodlands Regional Centre will be fine-tuned and subsequently exhibited with the draft Master Plan later this year.

Conclusion

15 I believe this development will be good for our residents in Woodlands and Sembawang and Yishun. We intend the north to be a good place to live, work and play and are confident that the future will be even better than today.

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