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Subject: (EMBARGOED) Speech by Mr Yatiman Yusof, 27 Mar 2000, 7.30pm

Singapore Government

PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR YATIMAN YUSOF, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (INFORMATION AND THE ARTS) AND MP FOR TAMPINES GRC, AT THE GALA FILM PREMIERE 'MISSION TO MARS' ON MONDAY 27 MARCH 2000 AT ENG WAH CINEPLEXES, SUNTEC CITY AT 7.30PM

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1. I would like to thank the Tampines West Community Club Management Committee and the Rotary Club of Jurong Town for your kind invitation to my wife and me to this splendid function. It gives us great pleasure to be here with you this evening.

2. This evening's function 'The Gala Film Premiere' of a Brian De Palma's film 'Mission to Mars' is indeed very special. It marks for the first time Tampines West Community Club working together with the Rotary Club of Jurong Town to raise funds for community projects. I am told that within a short period of time

volunteers from both organisations worked very hard to raise about \$80,000 for the benefits of the Rotary Family Service Centre, which is located in Clementi and the Tampines West CC Management Fund.

3. Some of you here tonight may wonder why a constituency grassroots organisation is involved in a fund-raising project for community project outside its boundary. The answer lies with the fact that about ten years ago, when Tampines West residents were working very hard to raise fund for its community club building fund, various groups both within and outside the constituency came forward to offer their help which we gladly accepted.

4. Now, we are in the position to contribute to those in need. I think it is only right that we do our part and help spread the spirit of a caring community. I hope, this joint fund-raising project is the beginning for many other similar projects that could benefit our citizens.

5. I would like to commend your unselfish and untiring efforts in ensuring the success of this project. It goes to show that spirit of voluntarism is well alive in Singapore. Volunteers like you are a group of special people who work quietly with dedication and sacrifices for the larger benefits of the society. Voluntarism will become more important as our society and country progress. The spirit of caring, sharing and giving and the more able helping the less able fellow Singaporeans regardless of his race, language or religion will become more critical for bonding of Singaporeans as one people.

6. Your efforts deserve recognition, as they are in line with the Singapore 21 Vision of active citizenship participation in community life. This is the key theme of Singapore 21 where Singaporeans are encouraged to actively participate by contributing ideas, efforts and energy to solve issues or challenges facing the country. These are done with the overall aim of building a better Singapore.

7. "Mission To Mars" is the extraordinary story of the astronauts of the Mars Recovery Mission, the nearly insurmountable dangers that confront the heroic crew on their journey through space, and the amazing discovery they make when they finally reach Mars". It is my sincere hope that the pioneering spirit as encapsulated in this film would represent our spirit and desire of breaking into a new frontier.

8. Finally, I would like to thank all sponsors, donors and the organisers who have worked very hard to ensure the success of the Gala Film Premiere. I wish all of you an enjoyable evening. Thank you.

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