

**SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN OF AMP SINGAPORE DR MD BADRUN NAFIS SAION AT THE INTER-AGENCY AFTERCARE GROUP YOUTH FORUM 2022, #YOUTH[FOR]PEACE – GUARDING AGAINST EXCLUSIVISM AND EXTREMISM, ON SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 11.35AM AT MOCHTAR RIADY AUDITORIUM**

Distinguished guests

ACG Leaders

Ladies and gentlemen

A very good morning to all of you.

Thank you for joining us this morning for our yearly Inter-Agency Aftercare Group or ACG Youth Forum. I know the weekend is very precious to many of us, which is why I am grateful to see so many of you here today, on a Saturday, for the forum because the topics and issues we will be discussing today are critical to the safety and security of our country.

The ACG is a collaboration between AMP Singapore, Yayasan MENDAKI, Taman Bacaan and Khadijah Mosque. It is aimed at providing support to the families of those detained for terrorism-related activities. Set up 20 years ago in 2002, the ACG also organises annual youth forums like the one we are here for today to empower youths to play a more active role in guarding against terror and radicalism.

The threat of terror is an ongoing one. The digital age we live in also has complicated the threat further. Access to content aimed at stoking radicalism and extremism is unlimited. Anyone with an Internet connection and time on their hands can easily access this unfavourable content and if they are not equipped with the right kind of skills or knowledge, they can fall victim to the ideologies purported by the people behind this content.

We have seen many of such cases happening. Some have contributed monetarily to conflicts overseas, while others have vowed to take up arms and participate in these conflicts. There are also those who want to commit violence here in Singapore. Let us take a moment to imagine if the authorities did not manage to detect them. Singapore will no longer be the safe and secure country we know.

This is why it is important for us to equip ourselves with the correct knowledge when spending time online. We need to be discerning users of the Internet. We need to learn how to tell between good and bad content. Sometimes it is not so clear cut or straightforward. As a rule of thumb, we should stay away from any content that aims to divide us as a society.

Beyond learning how to be discerning online, we must also ensure our ties in the community remain strong. We must remember that our strength is in our diversity. We should celebrate our differences

and foster greater understanding among one another. This is because our social harmony and cohesion are what will help us create a safe and secure Singapore as we stand guard against radicalism.

I am glad that you have taken the first step towards this by attending today's forum. It is my hope that you will share the knowledge you gained today with your friends and family. This is because standing up against the threat of terror and radicalism requires the effort of all Singaporeans. Each of us has a part to play in keeping our country safe.

With that, I hope today's forum will be a fruitful one for you and look forward to hearing your ideas on how we can keep Singapore safe and secure.

Thank you.

**END**