

**EMBARGOED UNTIL SUNDAY, 11 JUNE 2023, 3.00PM**

11 June 2023

## **ENHANCED BENEFITS FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE MIGRANT WORKERS' CENTRE**

*~ NTUC and MWC celebrated May Day with 18,000 migrant workers and rolled out new dental benefits and shopping discounts to better serve migrant workers' interests ~*

1. The National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and Migrant Workers' Centre (MWC) organised the NTUC May Day Migrant Workers Celebration across two locations this year to show appreciation to our migrant worker community in Singapore. Leading up to the main celebration on 11 June, Sunday, MWC has been working with various partners to organise sports and leisure activities for migrant workers.
2. The main celebration, graced by Guest-of-Honour NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Heng Chee How, was held at the Migrant Workers' Centre Recreation Club (MWC RC) with over 8,000 migrant workers. MWC also organised special hybrid concerts featuring song and dance performances for the migrant workers at MWC RC and at the Capital Development Pte Ltd (CDPL) Tuas Dormitory in the evening. Across both locations, the concerts are expected to attract over 168,000 migrant workers in physical attendance and online. More details on DSG Heng joining migrant workers in the celebrations can be found in the Annex.

### **Innovating MWC membership offerings to better serve migrant workers' interests**

3. To ensure that migrant workers' interests are well looked after, including having insurance protection, MWC rolled out the MWC Associate Membership last November. This membership provides migrant workers with a group insurance plan in the event of critical illness or death and other benefits for training and skills upgrading, telco packages, medical and employment agency services. In less than a year, MWC has successfully onboarded 25,000 migrant workers to the associate membership to date. MWC has continued to innovate and expand on the membership benefits to better serve the evolving needs of the migrant workers.
4. At the celebration held at MWC RC, NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Heng Chee How witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Migrant Workers' Assistance Fund (MWAF), the humanitarian charity set up by MWC, and the MigrantWell Singapore (MWS), a charity set up by SBF Foundation with the support of founding donors The Estates of Khoo Teck Puat and Ng Teng Fong to provide affordable dental services for migrant workers. Dental care is an essential aspect of overall health and well-being, yet it is often overlooked by migrant workers due to concerns over associated costs.



5. The new dental benefit seeks to address these concerns and offer additional privileges for MWC Associate Members. As part of the partnership, MWAFF will donate three million dollars to fund the programme for six years. The programme is expected to offer better access to dental services for 4,000 migrant workers annually. Migrant workers seeking dental care via the programme will only need to pay a flat fee of up to \$30, and MWC Associate Members will receive an additional \$5 discount off the dental fees.

6. MWC also announced a new partnership with the supermarket at MWC RC to allow associate members to enjoy exclusive members' rates on all items in the supermarket, helping them to stretch their hard-earned money, save more, and be able to send more money back home to loved ones.

7. NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Heng Chee How, shared that "As NTUC strives to innovate our membership offerings to serve the changing needs of different workers, I am glad that MWC continued to keep their ears on the ground and gathered feedback and concerns of migrant workers. The new dental benefits and shopping discounts offered by MWC Associate Membership will plug existing gaps to better serve the interests of migrant workers by improving their wellbeing and helping them stretch their dollars. I hope that this will encourage other employers who hire migrant workers to review their existing benefits and partner with NTUC and MWC to improve the welfare of our migrant workers."

8. On the new partnership to offer better access to dental services for migrant workers, MWAFF Chairperson Kuah Boon Wee added, "We noted that migrant workers lack access to affordable dental care. The dental care for migrant workers is not covered in both the medical insurance requirement and the Primary Care Plan (PCP) under the primary healthcare system for migrant workers. We hope the new dental benefit can complement existing dental care for migrant workers and encourage them to seek dental care at an affordable cost."

9. MWS Chairman Ho Meng Kit said, "We were heartened by the strong support from the business community who cares and donated towards the health and wellbeing of migrant workers. We thank MWC and MWAFF for their generous donation which will allow multi-year funding and scaling up of our dental programme for MigrantWell. With the joint funding by MigrantWell and MWC, we have appointed two service providers, St. Andrew's Mission Hospital and HealthServe to provide affordable and accessible dental care for migrant workers. The programme will also cover other activities like awareness, education, and dental screening. We have plans to look at other areas beyond dental service, like mental health and physiotherapy."



## Taking care of migrant workers' interests in the area of work and life

10. As part of the NTUC May Day Migrant Workers Celebrations 2023, MWC organised a series of activities to keep migrant workers engaged. The NTUC May Day 2023 Migrant Workers Sports Championship kicked off the celebrations in April, which saw 66 teams competing across cricket, futsal and volleyball. The grand finals for each sport were held at the MWC RC. The winning teams walked away with a championship trophy, medals and cash prizes of up to \$1,000. MWC also gave out a care pack consisting of snacks, supermarket and food court vouchers (\$5 each) to the first 2,000 migrant workers who arrived at the MWC RC. Migrant workers were able to enjoy themselves at the games carnival and check out partner booths set up by the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Workplace Safety and Health Council (WSHC), Singtel, HealthServe and Western Union.

11. MWC also continued their anti-scam efforts by partnering with SPF and trained MWC's grassroots ambassadors, who are migrant workers themselves, to engage and educate other migrant workers on identifying scams and navigating online platforms safely. To recognise the ambassadors for their contributions, a total of 27 ambassadors were presented with certificates of appreciation at the celebration.

12. The celebration culminated in a special hybrid concert held in two locations, MWC RC and CDPL (Tuas) Dormitory in the evening. To allow migrant workers to share snippets of life in their second home in Singapore with their loved ones, concerts were also livestreamed via MWC's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mwccsg/>.

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## Chinese Translations

National Trades Union Congress (NTUC)	全国职工总会 (职总)
NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Heng Chee How	职总 副秘书长 王志豪
Migrant Workers' Centre (MWC)	外籍客工中心
MWC Associate Membership Programme	外籍客工中心会员计划
Migrant Workers' Assistance Fund (MwAF)	外籍客工援助基金
MwAF Chairperson Kuah Boon Wee	外籍客工援助基金主席柯文伟
MwS Chairman Ho Meng Kit	MigrantWell Singapore 主席 何鸣杰

## About National Trades Union Congress (NTUC)

The National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) is a national confederation of trade unions as well as a network of professional associations and partners across all sectors in Singapore. NTUC's objectives are to help Singapore stay competitive and working people remain



employable for life; to enhance the social status and well-being of our members and working people; and to build a strong, responsible and caring labour movement. NTUC's vision is to be an inclusive labour movement for all collars, ages and nationalities. NTUC is at the heart of the Labour Movement, which comprises 58 affiliated unions, seven affiliated associations, 12 social enterprises, six related organisations as well as a growing ecosystem of U Associates and enterprise partners. For more details on NTUC, please visit our website at [www.ntuc.org.sg](http://www.ntuc.org.sg).

### **About Migrant Workers' Centre (MWC) and Migrant Workers' Assistance Fund (MWF)**

The Migrant Workers' Centre (MWC) is a bipartite effort between the National Trades Union Congress and the Singapore National Employers Federation to improve the welfare of migrant workers in Singapore. Set up on 26 April 2009, it aims to promote responsible employment practices among employers, educate migrant workers on their employment rights, and enhance the social support infrastructure to help them better integrate into the Singapore society. Through humanitarian support, community engagements and educational programmes, MWC serves as a contact point for migrant workers and facilitates their harmonious co-existence with locals. Migrant workers seeking assistance can call 6536 2692 for help.

The Migrant Workers' Assistance Fund (MWF) is the humanitarian charity of MWC. MWF aims to provide distressed workers with emergency humanitarian assistance ranging from emergency shelter; daily essentials and basic sustenance needs; employment-related issues such as salary arrears; medical and/or repatriation payments. In the event where the migrant workers tragically lose their lives, the MWF may also provide their next-of-kin with monetary assistance. The MWF will also go towards causes that helped advance the well-being and integration of migrant workers which is in consistent with the MWF's objectives.

### **About MigrantWell Singapore (MWS)**

MigrantWell Singapore (MWS) is an Institution of Public Character set up in 2021 and initiated by Founding Donors, Estate of Khoo Teck Puat and Estate of Ng Teng Fong, who wanted to incorporate a charitable CLG to look after the health and wellbeing of migrant workers. A MigrantWell Welfare Fund (MWWF) has been set up to complement existing healthcare plans by addressing care gaps such as dental health, mental health and rehabilitative care. MWS aspires to be a care compact for migrant workers who acts in unison with other like-minded organisations to support migrant workers.



**For media queries, please contact:**

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**ANNEX**

**1. Event Programme on Sunday, 11 June 2023**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
9.00am – 2.00pm	Sports Championship Finals (Cricket, Futsal, Volleyball)
12.00pm – 5.00pm	Fringe activities (carnival games) @ Amphitheatre Area
12.00pm – 9.00pm	Partner Booths @ Multi-Purpose Hall
<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Arrival of Guest-of-Honour NTUC DSG Heng Chee How</b>
	Distribution of care packs to migrant workers
1.00pm	Tour of Beer Garden Area and view paintings by migrant workers
	GOH engagement with partner Gateway Arts for screening of 'My Invisible Life'
1.10pm	GOH engagement with partner booths and migrant workers @ Multi-Purpose Hall
1.35pm	GOH engagement with migrant workers for sports matches (Cricket, Futsal, Volleyball)
2.10pm	GOH engagement with migrant workers for Carnival Games @ Amphitheatre Area
2.30pm	Speech by GOH NTUC DSG Heng Chee How
<b>2.35pm</b>	<b>MOU signing between Migrant Workers' Centre and MigrantWell Singapore</b>
2.45pm	Speech by Commander of Central Division, Asst. Commissioner of Police, Mr Jeremy Ang
	Presentation of certificates to MWC ambassadors to show recognition for their scam awareness outreach efforts
3.10pm	Presentation of prizes to Sports Championship winners
3.30pm	Media doorstop by GOH NTUC DSG Heng Chee How @ Amphitheatre Area
7.00pm	Hybrid concert @ CDPL Tuas Dorm <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-recorded speech by NTUC DSG Heng Chee How</li><li>• Presentation of certificates of participation for Cook-Off competition</li><li>• Song and dance performances</li></ul>
10.00pm	End of programme