

SPEECH FOR PROJECT GREENGRASS FOR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HO PENG
KEE, SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, ON 25
MARCH 2006

Good afternoon. I am very honoured to have the opportunity to launch Mr. Glenn Lim's life story titled "Green Grass" and Project GreenGrass this afternoon. I am very happy that Young NTUC is undertaking this project together with Glenn, who is the Singapore Youth Award winner in 2005, to promote an anti-drug abuse movement.

Young NTUC, being the official youth wing of the National Trades Union Congress, is the largest youth movement in Singapore. The youths are keen to be big brothers and big sisters for Teen Challenge. It will be a good experience for the teens to know Young NTUC as well for they have youth chapters from the 63 NTUC affiliated unions with a total membership of 150,000 members below 35 years old. The teens will have the opportunity to interact with Young NTUC as all of them are from different walks of life. They will be able to serve as role models for all of you.

There is certainly a place for everyone in the society, but it depends on how each and every one of us will search for this special place. There are many dangers to drug abuse. Family and friends will not be able to reach out to you. You will experience all the coldness and separation from your loved ones. It is definitely not worth this torture. Glenn will share with us today on his life experience. In his production, you will be able to understand the various stages of life that he had been through. Through this, you will realize that it is all about personal choices and responsibilities. The danger of drug abuse is far more than any person can anticipate. However, we are educating the community the dangers of drug abuse and also to be more tolerant towards giving ex-offenders a second chance. We are all very proud of Glenn today. Being an ex-offender, he had managed to stand back up on his two feet and set up Awakening Productions where he promotes music as an alternate platform to young people's talents, and has been actively campaigning for the anti-drug abuse movement. He serves as the best role model to every single one of us here.

Everybody look around you. DXO is one of the trendiest discotheque in the clubbing scene in Singapore, but it is certainly not a nest for drug exchanges. Being hip and cool is certainly not a passport to picking up these vices. The group of young men who put up an item on dance performance certainly had talent. They did very well. This is something that we should encourage more young people to embark on. Having positive platforms to exercise their talents and channel their energies, the youngsters will be engaged to stretch their creativity and thoughts. This will be an asset to them in the future. With these talents realized, you can certainly assist to influence the rest of the younger generation in Singapore.

With this, I would once again like to extend my congratulations to both Mr. Glenn Lim and Young NTUC for embarking in Project GreenGrass to spread anti-drug abuse messages to our fellow Singaporeans.

Thank you.