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PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH AND SPORTS,  
AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,  
AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE GREENGRASS MOVIE,  
PROJECT GREENGRASS @ YOUTH PARK,  
ON SAT, 29 APRIL 2006, AT 7.00 PM,  
AT NYC YOUTH PARK**

Ladies and Gentlemen  
Good evening.

It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening at the Project GreenGrass, to mark the launch of the official public screening of the movie "Green Grass". "Green Grass" is a short film based on the life of Glenn Lim. It is always inspiring and heartwarming when we come across success stories like that of Glenn, who overcame his dependency on drugs and turned his life around. His shining moment came when he won the Singapore Youth Award in 2005.

**"Clean, Green and Drug-free Music Scene"**

2 I am happy to see so many young people from different walks of life lending their creative talents to support this project. By doing so, they are also making a stand in their desire to keep the local music scene "clean, green, and drug-free." The bands that performed here today are a great example of how young people can exercise their creative energies in a constructive and positive manner, encouraging their peers to live lives free from drugs and vice.

3 The threat that drugs pose to our society has been well-contained thus far. Data on the local drug situation in 2005 shows that number of abusers across all age groups has declined. The most significant improvement comes from abusers below 20 years old. However, abusers between 20 and 29 years old continue to form the largest percentage of abusers arrested, close to 50%. We also face the emerging threat of synthetic drugs such as Methamphetamine and Ketamine in Singapore.

Although the number of new abusers has decreased as compared to 2004, 87% of these new abusers took synthetic drugs. We need to impress upon our youth that taking synthetic drugs is not fashionable.

4 The current youth generation is now more exposed to the influences of liberal sub-cultures than in the past. Liberal sub-culture attitudes are generally tolerant towards drug taking, even portraying it as a lifestyle choice. Therefore, there is a need for local role models, such as those we have seen on stage today, to stand up and encourage our young people to exercise their talents and energies in a positive way. Picking up and getting hooked on bad habits like drugs can only be self-destructive, and certainly not an integral part of creative and artistic expression.

### **Project GreenGrass**

5 Tonight, Glenn, who will be performing with his band 'Surreal', will be sharing his life's experience with us through the short movie, "Green Grass." From Glenn's story, you will see that, while taking drugs may appear to be "cool" and "in", the actual reality of drug addiction is far worse than you can ever imagine. Drug abuse affects not only the life of the abuser, but the loved ones as well.

6 I want to commend Youthop!a, Awakening Productions, and Teen Challenge, who have undertaken this project together with Glenn to promote the anti-drug abuse messages, and encourage youths to develop and express their creative ideas and dynamic talents free from drugs and vice, just as we have seen here tonight. I trust that their ceaseless efforts will inspire young people to lead lives that are clean, green and drug-free!

7 Thank you.