

**Speech by Mr Hoong Wee Teck, Commissioner of Police,
at the 85th AGM of The Singapore Police Co-operative Society**
Wednesday, 11am, 24 June 2015, HTNS-JOM Clubhouse

Chairman,
Directors,
and members of The Singapore Police Co-operative Society,

A very good morning to everyone.

I am happy to join you today at your 85th Annual General Meeting.

Business Performance 2014

As highlighted by the Police Co-operative Board in its report to members over the last few years, the Registrar of Co-operatives had, in 2010, required credit co-operatives to pare down their restricted investments to 10% of total assets by the middle of 2015. This restriction had limited the Co-operative's ability to generate higher returns.

So it was with some relief that the Co-operative managed to receive the Registrar's approval on 1 August 2014 to increase its restricted investments to 30% of total assets. We have realised the full benefit of this measure since then.

It should also be noted that the Co-operative had, to the benefit of members, increased the saving rates for specific deposits and fixed deposit savings in 2014, while keeping the loan rates unchanged.

Notwithstanding the restrictions, the Police Co-operative recorded a healthy net surplus of \$4.3 million for FY2014. It was a slight decrease compared to \$4.65 million for FY2013.

Dividend Payment to be paid in 2015

Your Board of Directors has thus recommended a 3.50% dividend payout for FY2014, the same rate as for FY2013.

Growing Co-operative

The Co-operative's total assets as at 31 December 2014 were about \$205.3 million, an increase of 7% as compared to FY2013 of \$191.9 million.

It has also managed to raise total membership to 11,467 as at 31 December 2014, an increase of 5.7% from the previous year. Besides the absolute increase in numbers, I am happy to note that 71% of new members are below the age of 30 years, which is a good sign that the Co-operative remains attractive to successive generations. As the business model of the co-operative works best when there is a good mix of borrowers and savers, and saving and borrowing habits differ with age, a well-balanced demographic base is necessary to ensure the sustainability of the Co-operative's business model.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Besides the strong financial results, I am glad to note that the Co-operative recently donated \$100,000 in May 2015 to help serving and retired Ghurkha Contingent officers affected by the recent earthquakes in Nepal. It was a tragedy with direct impact to our fellow officers and I am heartened to see the Home Team coming together to show solidarity with them. The funds raised by the Police Central Welfare Fund will go towards lightening the financial burden of those who need to re-build their homes or to provide financial support to their immediate family members back home.

Co-option of Board Member

Lastly, Mr Abdul Jalil, the current Treasurer of the Co-operative, will be stepping down from the Board after a meritorious 21 years of service!

Jalil has served the Co-operative as a Director since June 1994. During this period, he served in different capacities as Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Secretary, before taking on his current Treasurer portfolio. He is also the Chairman of the Investment and Loans Committee.

I would like to place on record my appreciation to Jalil for his long and outstanding service to the Co-operative, dedicating his personal time and experience to contribute to the Co-operative and its members.

With Jalil stepping down, I co-opt Mr Foo Kwee Pinh to replace Jalil on the Board. I am also appointing Mr Lim Chin Tiak to take over the role of Treasurer from Jalil.

With this, I wish the Police Co-operative every success in its future endeavours. It is my pleasure to declare The Singapore Police Co-operative Society's 85th Annual General Meeting open.

Thank you very much.