

**SPEECH BY CE (NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL), MR DAVID CHUA
AT THE YOUTH ACTION CHALLENGE SEASON 4 FINAL OPEN MIC
SESSION,
ON 28-29 OCTOBER 2022**

1 Welcome to the Youth Action Challenge Season 4 Final Open Mic. Congratulations on making it this far over the past four months. Not just to the teams that made it to the Final Open Mic, but also to all the other teams that have journeyed over the last few months.

2 I only have one thing to share with you today and it's about wisdom. Yes, it's a strange thing to say, I know, for an action challenge. But I don't mean head wisdom, and I am not discounting the action of your hands. But what I am really thinking about it is, how you combine your heart with your head.

3 And so wisdom describes a posture that demonstrates the kind of values that we at the National Youth Council hope that young Singaporeans will cultivate - people like you. It's a posture of openness to hear other views different to yours. It's taking on a certain humility to acknowledge that you don't know everything and that you can't do it alone or everything by yourselves.

4 It's about being sometimes slower to speak and to react but being more ready to listen and to embrace different views. It's about being inclusive, and it seeks to embrace other people, other parties, who may be sidelined or isolated, bringing them into the action, into the community. It's a posture that seeks common ground with a level of courage to bring polarised views together, and one that balances your youthful energy and passion with a graceful maturity.

5 I leave you with a saying from Benjamin Franklin in the year 1750, and he said that "nothing is more important to the public will or welfare than to form and train up youth in wisdom and virtue, wise and good men are the strength of the state".

6 And so we do need wise men and women for Singapore, and I trust that you will be the kind of men and women. I just want to take the time to thank Citi, UNDP, government agencies, mentors, consultants, friends and supporters who have journeyed with all the Youth Action Challenge teams. And I just want to wish you all the very best, have lots of fun, make lots of friends at this Youth Action Challenge.