

## Drumming up SG50 cheer with PM as surprise guest

**SINGAPORE** – About 10,000 people drummed to the same beat at the annual Community Chest Heartstrings Walk yesterday morning as they made their way along a 4km trail along the Marina Bay.

They got a pleasant surprise at the end of the walk when Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong made an unannounced appearance to greet them.

The event, which was flagged off by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and Social and Family Development Minister Tan Chuan-Jin, included a special percussion element for the first time.

Community Chest beneficiaries and members put months of drumming practice to good use, while members of the public brought along their own percussion instruments to add to what organisers called the SG50 Community Heartbeats.

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All donations, including the S\$10 registration fee for the walk, will be given to charities supported by the Community Chest. Funds raised from the event will be matched dollar for dollar by the Government under the Care & Share Movement for SG50.

At a separate event yesterday, the National University of Singapore (NUS) announced that its students raised more than S\$450,000 through the annual NUS Students' Union Rag & Flag Day.

The donations, which will also be matched dollar for dollar by the Government, will be divided among 19 charity programmes supported by Community Chest.

At the Rag Day held yesterday at The Float @ Marina Bay, students, staff, alumni and the public — numbering more than 26,000 — celebrated Singapore's 50th birthday, as well as the university's 110th year of founding.

More than 1,700 NUS students put up 14 performances, alongside local acts such as The Sam Willows and Gentle Bones.

NUS students also designed and built a 3.5m-tall "birthday cake" decorated with thousands of messages for the nation from Singaporeans, including primary-school and special-needs students.

The giant birthday "cake" doubled up as a donation kiosk for members of the public to chip in by tapping their EZ-Link cards.