

The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon,
Your Honours,
President of NTUC, Ms Diana Chia
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the launch of Law Works 2013, a partnership between the Law Society and NTUC.

A Roman lawyer, politician and philosopher, Cicero once said "*We are all servants of the laws in order that we may be free.*" While Cicero may be better remembered for other reasons, there is some truth in his statement.

Indeed, servants of the law should at least be aware of the law and of the rights and responsibilities that they have. Otherwise, we may be hesitant to take a step forward because we don't know what the legal consequences will be and this will constrain us, making us not as free as we can be.

For this reason, the Law Society has been actively taking steps to help members of the public know or be aware of the law, so that they better understand their rights and responsibilities. For many years now, we have had numerous outreach efforts, by way of public talks, seminars and the evergreen legal clinics. Law Society does this through its Pro Bono Services Office.

Law Works 2013 continues with this effort on the part of the Law Society. Law Works is a partnership between NTUC and the Law Society and the campaign is intended to reach out to you, including PMEs, working women and freelance professionals.

NTUC touches many lives, being at the heart of the labour movement in Singapore. It comprises 61 affiliated unions, one affiliated taxi association, 13 social enterprises and 4 related organisations and its objectives are to help Singapore stay competitive and workers remain employable for life; to enhance the social status and well-being of workers and to build a strong, responsible and caring labour movement.

Law Works 2013 endeavours to help NTUC achieve its objectives and aims to promote and educate you on your legal rights and responsibilities, and to promote your interests generally. Through access to such information, we hope that you will be better apprised of your rights and responsibilities and of the means by which you can address any legal issues you face.

Today is the launch of Law Works 2013 and we will for the rest of 2013 organise legal clinics here at NTUC's premises, 1 Marina Boulevard. For a more focused approach, we will have quarterly legal primers/talks addressing specific issues in response to the challenges faced in today's competitive world.

We are also collaborating on a multi-part "*pocket series*" which will contain key information on employment issues. These quick guides will also provide checklists that you can refer to, to guide you along to a better understanding of your rights.

I have said enough, and as the adage goes, a picture tells a thousand words. I would like to now turn your attention to the screen, where a video will be shown on the work of the Law Society's Pro Bono Services Office and what we do to help facilitate the access to justice.

Thank you.