

INFORMATION SHEET ON THE 2008 PSLE RESULTS OF STUDENTS EXEMPTED FROM COMPULSORY EDUCATION

1. Under the Compulsory Education (CE) Act, designated schools - the six full-time madrasahs and the San Yu Adventist School - are required to meet a certain minimum PSLE benchmark¹ at least twice in every 3-year assessment period from 2008 onwards, in order to admit new Primary 1 pupils. Home-schoolers are expected to meet the same benchmark as San Yu Adventist School.

Madrasahs

2. There were 362 CE-exempted students from the 2003 P1 cohort in madrasahs who should have sat for the PSLE this year. 321 students sat for the PSLE, while 41 were retained in the madrasahs². Another 20 students had earlier transferred back to national schools. For the 2003 P1 cohort, four of the six madrasahs met the benchmark. 2 madrasahs, namely Madrasah Al-Arabiah and Madrasah Wak Tanjong, have not met the benchmark.

3. In all, 313 pupils (or 98%) have been assessed as suitable to proceed to secondary school – 41% for the Express course, 48% for the Normal (Academic) course and 9% for the Normal (Technical) course.

San Yu Adventist

4. All 3 CE-exempted students from the 2003 P1 cohort sat for the PSLE this year. Based on these candidates, San Yu Adventist met the benchmark. All the 3 students were assessed as suitable to proceed to secondary school. 1 is eligible for the Express course, and 2 are eligible for the Normal (Academic) course.

Home-schoolers

5. There were 31 CE-exempted home-schoolers from the 2003 P1 cohort. 26 sat for the PSLE this year while 5 deferred sitting for the PSLE due to valid medical reasons. Of the 26, 24 pupils (or 92%) have been assessed as suitable to proceed to secondary school – 73% for the Express course, 12% for the

¹ For the madrasahs, the benchmark is pegged at the average PSLE aggregate score of merged stream Malay pupils in the six lowest-performing national schools who took the PSLE in that same year. Students who did not sit the PSLE are assigned the lowest possible PSLE score. For San Yu, the benchmark is pegged at the 33rd percentile PSLE aggregate score of all merged stream pupils who took the PSLE in that same year.

² Retention is rare in mainstream schools and often granted for medical reasons.

Normal (Academic) and 8% for the Normal (Technical) course³. 7 home-schoolers have not met the benchmark and would have to sit for the PSLE in 2009.

³ Total percentage exceeds 92% due to rounding.