

INFORMATION SHEET ON THE 2009 PSLE RESULTS OF CHILDREN EXEMPTED FROM COMPULSORY EDUCATION

1. Under the Compulsory Education (CE) Act, designated schools – the six full-time madrasahs and 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 367 CE-exempted pupils from the 2004 P1 cohort in madrasahs who should have sat for the PSLE this year. 363 pupils sat for the PSLE, while 4 were retained in the madrasahs². Another 24 pupils had earlier transferred back to national schools. For the 2004 P1 cohort, five of the six madrasahs met the benchmark. Madrasah Al-Arabiah has not met the benchmark.

San Yu Adventist

3. Both the CE-exempted pupils from the 2004 P1 cohort sat for the PSLE this year. Based on these candidates, San Yu Adventist School met the benchmark.

Home-schoolers

4. There were 44 CE-exempted home-schoolers from the 2004 P1 cohort. 37 sat for the PSLE this year while 7 deferred sitting for the PSLE due to valid medical reasons. 17 home-schoolers from the 2004 P1 cohort have not met the benchmark and will have to sit for the PSLE in 2010.

5. MOE will help to facilitate admission to Secondary One for home-schoolers who have met the benchmark. Those who wish to attend a national primary school to repeat the PSLE in 2010 can also seek MOE's help for admission to Primary Six or lower, so that they can take advantage of the full opportunities and resources available in our national schools.

¹ For the madrasahs, the benchmark is pegged at the average PSLE aggregate score of Malay pupils who took four standard-level subjects in the six lowest performing national schools, ranked according to the performance of Malay pupils who take four standard-level subjects in the PSLE in the same year. For San Yu Adventist School, the benchmark is pegged at the bottom 33rd percentile PSLE aggregate score of all pupils who took four standard-level subjects in the PSLE in the same year.

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