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Headline :	Keynote address by Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, at the 'Changing Course' Exhibition, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 4 June 2018

Ms Jessica Cheam, Managing Editor of Eco-Business

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good afternoon. Let me begin by congratulating Jessica and Fraser on their successful trip to the Antarctica, and for sharing their experience with us through this documentary. When used well, a bold image and film can provoke deep reflection and help drive across climate change issues and messages far more effectively than words. I will keep my remarks brief.

Climate Change & Sustainable Development

2. Climate change is a global challenge. We have seen its impact on countries around the world, manifested for example in extreme weather conditions, from droughts to floods caused by intense rainfall. Singapore is especially vulnerable. As a low-lying island, we are most vulnerable.

3. This is why we have put in place long-term plans to adapt to, and mitigate the impact of climate change. Changi Airport Terminal 5 will be built 5.5m above the mean sea level. Significant investments have been made in other infrastructure such as raising the height of coastal roads, building seawalls, and widening drains. We are supporting solar deployment, expanding public transport, freezing the growth of our car population and implementing a carbon tax from 2019. We are also working to reduce waste and extract greater value from waste as a resource to achieve our vision of a circular economy.

Year of Climate Action

4. However, the government cannot tackle climate change alone. We need industry, households and individuals to play active roles. This is why we designated 2018 as the Year of Climate Action — to raise awareness on climate change, and to spur collective action.

5. We have received good response and support from many organisations, who have helped to spread climate action messages. Let me share a few examples.

- In February this year, Eco-Business organised the Unlocking Capital for Sustainability conference, which I attended. The conference gathered senior business leaders, policymakers and innovators to discuss sustainable finance in Singapore and the region.
- Last week, Ricoh Asia Pacific organised its 12th Eco Action Day Industry Roundtable, bringing together corporate representatives and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) experts to discuss how Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 can be tackled in the Singapore context.

- The Tzu Chi Foundation will be leveraging their monthly recycling drives to conduct public education on the different types of climate action that individuals can take.

6. We have also collected close to 170,000 Climate Action pledges from individuals, schools and organisations. This is an encouraging number and we hope that more will come on board to pledge their support. If you have not made your Climate Action pledge, may I encourage you to go to [www.climateaction.sg](http://www.climateaction.sg) to do so. By making a pledge, we make a public declaration of our readiness to take climate action and to be a positive influence to inspire others to do likewise.

#### Conclusion

7. Every positive step, no matter how small, will contribute to a sustainable future for Singapore, and we must recognise that no one can do this alone. I encourage everyone to continue to do your part for climate action, for us and our future generations.

8. Thank you.