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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MS GRACE FU, MINISTER FOR CULTURE,
COMMUNITY AND YOUTH AT COMMUNITY CHEST FÚ DÀI 2018 ON 3
FEBRUARY 2018, SATURDAY, 12.30PM AT THE BIG BOX**

Associate Professor Dr Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Education & Ministry of Social and Family Development

Mr Baey Yam Keng, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture,
Community and Youth

Ms Joan Pereira, Member of Parliament, Tanjong Pagar GRC,

Mr Sitoh Yih Pin, Member of Parliament, Potong Pasir,

Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman, Community Chest,

Mr Foo Say Thye, Chairman of the Subcommittee of Fú Dài 2018,
Friends of Community Chest,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon. The Lunar New Year is fast approaching, and I am glad to be able to join all our valuable partners and volunteers in sharing the festive joy with the underprivileged. I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow colleagues and MPs who are here with us today for a good cause.
2. Today's event, co-organised by Community Chest and Heartwarmers, is about the community coming together to improve the lives of vulnerable groups in our community. Community Chest and Heartwarmers worked together with local constituencies to identify underprivileged groups in need of assistance, and roped in corporate

partners such as A Group of Philanthropist to contribute their time and resources. Some donated items for the Fú Dài, some contributed their time to pack and deliver the Fú Dài, and some provided logistics support, such as first time partner SMRT Corporation Ltd.

3. SMRT has kindly provided eight shuttle buses driven by their volunteer bus captains to help deliver over 400 bags to various locations in Singapore. They have also donated 2,500 ez-link cards in the Fú Dài to be distributed to vulnerable seniors, many of whom stay alone. The latest Quality of Life (QOL) study, conducted by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) in 2016, found that social participation has a significant impact in improving the quality of life for seniors, and this kind gesture by SMRT is a start to encourage the seniors to venture out and participate in more activities. A big thank you to all partners for making a difference this Lunar New Year!
4. Community Chest Fú Dài is into its fifth year and I am glad to note that it has grown in terms of volunteer participation and the number of beneficiaries. There are more than 2,000 volunteers in all, who have helped to pack and distribute over 6,000 Fú Dài this year.
5. Amongst the volunteers, we have Mr Andy Lee, who owns the parenting blog Sengkang Babies. He has brought along his family, including three children, aged nine to thirteen, to help in the packing of Fú Dài for the third year in a row. We have 20 cabin crew from Singapore Airlines who have taken time off flying to be with us here today. As well as bus captains and employees from SMRT who have kindly offered to help us to drive and deliver the Fú Dài. Not forgetting

our long-time volunteers from Standard Chartered Bank, some of whom have been volunteering with us since Fú Dài started 5 years ago.

6. The Community Chest Fú Dài volunteers hail from all walks of life. This event is a sterling example of the SG Cares spirit and how the people, public and private sectors can work together to amplify the impact of our efforts. Giving can come in many forms, and even small deeds can go a long way. SG Cares is really about looking out for the people around us, and giving back to the community.
7. Later on, some volunteers will join me in preparing a few simple dishes with seniors from Dorcas Home Care Service, under the guidance of Chef Anna Phua. Chef Anna is an example of an individual who exemplifies the SG Cares spirit by actively giving back to society with her skills. She is a volunteer with 365 Cancer Prevention Society and conducts pro-bono cooking classes for seniors at Saint Andrew's Community Hospital. Chef Anna is an advocate of healthy living and I am sure the seniors will be able to benefit from her expertise. I know I am looking forward to her nutritious creations.
8. On behalf of Community Chest, co-organiser Heartwarmers, and the Fú Dài recipients, I thank each and every one of you for your meaningful contributions and for helping to build a more caring and inclusive home for all. I wish all of you a blessed and prosperous Lunar New Year in advance!
9. Thank you.