

EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY
PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR CHRIS CHONG
CHAIRMAN OF THE CHRISTMAS ON
A GREAT STREET LIGHT-UP CEREMONY 2020 COMMITTEE**

Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore and the Patron-in-Chief of the National Council of Social Service

Minister Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development and the Patron of the National Council of Social Service

Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman, Community Chest

Mr Kojin Nakakita, Chairman, Hitachi Asia Ltd.

Distinguished guests, and friends of Community Chest,

1. Good evening! Thank you for joining us here virtually as we usher in the festive season of joy and giving here at the Christmas On A Great Street Light-Up Ceremony 2020, in support of Community Chest and SG Cares Giving Week. In a short while, our Guest-of-Honour, President Halimah Yacob, who is joining us live from ION Orchard, will do us the honour of transforming Orchard Road into a magical wonderland. Thank you, Mdm President for being here with us.
2. It goes without saying that 2020's Christmas Light-Up ceremony is markedly different from past years'. Tonight, for the first time in 37 years, we are not able to gather in person to witness the first moment that Orchard Road is lit up by Christmas decorations. Nevertheless, I am thankful that we are able to leverage technology so that we can still come together virtually. The show, as they say, must go on.

3. Every year at this event, we celebrate the empowerment of our service users and the people who have supported them to lead fulfilling and dignified lives within an inclusive society. I am heartened to see that, despite the many challenges that organisations are facing in 2020, they continue to be generous in giving their time, talent and treasures in support of those who need it.
4. This year, CapitaLand, ION Orchard and Takashimaya Shopping Centre have come onboard as fundraising partners for two digital initiatives to rally their shoppers to donate as they go about their festive shopping. Through the **Brighten With Love** initiative, shoppers at CapitaLand malls, ION Orchard and Takashimaya Shopping Centre can donate \$10 to Community Chest by scanning a PayNow QR code and receive a special promo code for a voucher. Alternatively, they can choose to support the **Celebrate With Love** initiative by converting their loyalty points with CapitaLand and ION Orchard to donate towards Community Chest.
5. Donors can also donate directly to Community Chest's **Win With Love** initiative via PayNow QR code that's flashed on the screen here and stand to win great prizes.
6. These donations will be matched by DBS Bank, who have very generously committed to matching up to \$100,000 for donations made via the PayNow or DBS PayLah! QR code in hopes of galvanising support for vulnerable groups.
7. All donations raised from the various digital initiatives will go towards funding over 200 critical programmes supported by Community Chest to empower children with special needs and youth-at-risk, families in need, vulnerable seniors, persons with disabilities and persons living with mental health conditions. In a time like this, support from the community is more crucial than ever.
8. This year, the light-up will extend beyond Orchard Road to include 13 CapitaLand malls island-wide. This is our way of bringing a touch of festive spirit island-wide. More importantly, it represents our gratitude towards the entire community for rallying behind our service users. After all, sustained support for those in need is

only possible when we all come together as a community. As we light up Singapore, it is also our hope that we, as one nation, can emerge stronger and brighter through any challenges that may come our way.

9. On behalf of our service users, I would like to thank Orchard Road Business Association, our main sponsor, Hitachi Group of Companies as well as the Singapore Tourism Board. It is only with steadfast commitment from partners like yourselves that Community Chest is able to continue to empower and transform lives year on year. In particular, I would like to express my utmost gratitude towards our main sponsor, the Hitachi Group of Companies, thank you for your unwavering support of this event over the last 30 years. We are thankful to have a partner like you on this giving journey, and we hope to continue having you onboard for the years to come.

10. I would also like to express my appreciation to CapitaLand Hope Foundation, NTUC FairPrice Foundation Ltd., PropNex Realty, DBS Bank, State Street Bank and Trust Company, Mr Raj Shekhar Sajja, Xilinx Asia Pacific, ION Orchard, Mastercard Asia Pacific, Park Hotel Group, Samsung, Takashimaya Shopping Centre, Wisma Atria and all who have contributed in one way or another to make this event possible. Thank you.

11. Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow committee members, Mr Allen Law, Mr Eugene Goh, Mr Edward Yue, Mr Frankie Quek, Mr Jimmy Teo, Mr Mark Shaw, Mr Michael Tay, Mr Peter Wee, Mr Richard Tan, Mr Steven Goh for your invaluable contributions.

12. Thank you and enjoy the evening.