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SPEECH BY MR PHILLIP TAN, CHAIRMAN, COMMUNITY CHEST, AT COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS CEREMONY ON 11 DECEMBER 2020, 2.45 PM, AT THE ISTANA

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

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

Ms Anita Fam, President, National Council of Social Service

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon and welcome to the Community Chest Awards 2020. Thank you Madam President for presiding at our event as Guest of Honour. We are also grateful to Minister Masagos for hosting this afternoon's event as we celebrate community giving.

2. COVID-19 has greatly affected our regular way of life. However, it also presented an opportunity for us to leverage technology, so that we could continue to organise this year's Comchest Awards. I am thankful that despite the unusual circumstances, our team, led by Robert Chew, has enabled us to hold this event, and we are all gathered, some in-person and others virtually, to recognise those who have made significant contributions to the community. Thank you Robert and your team.

3. Every year at the Comchest Awards, we honour our valued partners – those who have made monetary donations towards the over 200 critical social service programmes supported by Comchest, as well as those who have contributed their time and talents to champion holistic giving through meaningful partnerships.

4. I am heartened to share that with your generous giving and sustained support, Comchest raised more than \$58 million in FY19. As our fund-raising and operating costs are covered mainly by Tote Board Group, 100% of your donations has been channelled to support over 80 charities.

5. I would like to thank you for your sustained contributions. As the impact of the pandemic becomes more apparent and complex needs emerge, your support to empower the lives of our social service users will be even more critical.

6. This year, a special Community Spirit Award will be conferred to our partners who have stepped up to render help when the pandemic struck.
 - a. We want to recognise the corporates and individuals who have donated generously to The Courage Fund, The Invictus Fund, the IMDA Digital Access Programme or other COVID-related causes; or made donations of masks and other essential items to our social service agencies and their service users.

 - b. To date, we have helped rally more than \$25 million for COVID-related causes and more than \$5 million worth of in-kind donations. All of these contributions have enabled us to support the most vulnerable amongst us during these tough times.

7. Please allow me to share on a few of our award recipients:

- a. Singtel, who is our Pinnacle Award recipient this year, has long been an advocate of the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the workplace and in society. In its offices, the company ensures an accessible work environment through job redesign, workplace adjustment and integration, and staff inclusion trainings. It also engages agencies like SG Enable and SPD to review accessibility of its stores and conducts disability awareness training for its frontline staff. Its Singtel Touching Lives Fund, which has raised over \$45 million since 2002, works with special education schools to equip children and youth with special needs with the skills needed to lead independent and meaningful lives.

- b. At the start of the pandemic, local real estate developer Perennial Real Estate Holdings Limited, together with Hong Kong-listed Shun Tak Holdings Limited, enabled a cross-country collaboration to secure and import five million masks for vulnerable persons in Singapore. Perennial contributed 3 million masks while Shun Tak contributed 2 million masks. These were distributed to our Senior Group Homes, Welfare Homes, Disability Homes, Children and Young Persons Homes and Safe, Sound Sleeping Places for rough sleepers.

- c. I would also like to highlight the efforts of individual donors: some of you made generous outright donations, while others, like Diana Ser and Jansen Siak, who started the Show We Care campaign, used your influence and reach to rally the community to do good.
8. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. You have all faced unprecedented challenges this year, but your determination to help those in need has remained strong.
9. At this point, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our tireless emcee Susan Ng, who has been providing her emceeing talents to this event since 1985. Susan's selfless contribution was recognised by the Enabler Award in 2018, and is an excellent example of the many different ways that our partners have given back to the community.
10. Regardless whether you have made outright donations, rallied your employees for the SHARE programme, encouraged volunteering initiatives within your company or leveraged your resources to amplify the impact of our work, your efforts are deeply appreciated.

11. More importantly, your collective action is a testament to the spirit of community giving that will guide us through unknown challenges ahead. It has been vital to the nation's progress and will continue to be so in the years to come. Together, we can realise our vision of building a caring and inclusive home for all. Once again, congratulations to all our award recipients.

12. Please enjoy the afternoon ahead. Thank you.