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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR MARKHAM SHAW
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST CHRISTMAS ON
A GREAT STREET LIGHT-UP CEREMONY 2021 COMMITTEE**

Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore

Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development and
Second Minister for Health

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 at the Community Chest Christmas On A Great Street Light-Up Ceremony 2021. In a short while, our Guest-of-Honour, President Halimah Yacob, will do us the honour of transforming Orchard Road into a magical wonderland. Thank you, Mdm President for being here with us today.
2. The annual light-up ceremony that we co-organise with Orchard Road Business Association has been a long-cherished tradition. Over the last two years, it has also taken on extra meaning as a symbol of our hope and well wishes for the nation as we continue to battle the challenges brought upon by the pandemic. I hope that despite the

circumstances, the lights will ignite a spark of joy for all Singaporeans this festive season.

3. Every year at this event, we highlight the importance of the nation coming together to support groups in need. I am heartened to see that over the last year, despite economic challenges, partners of Community Chest and the wider community have continued to be generous – and oftentimes, creative – in giving their time, talent and treasures.
4. This year, for example, celebrities and influencers Mark Lee, Ee Chiou Huey, Chase Tan and Ferlyn G are rallying their followers to support Community Chest via their respective social media platforms, while partners like Phoon Huat and Pernod Ricard are volunteering their time to conduct lifestyle masterclasses to engage the community in giving back. These efforts will go a long way in supporting more than 100 social service agencies and 200 critical programmes funded by Community Chest, to empower children with special needs and youth-at-risk, adults with disabilities, persons with mental health conditions and families and seniors in need of support.
5. This unwavering community spirit is also what has defined almost two years of the pandemic, as Singaporeans continue to rally behind multiple causes close to their hearts. This year, Community Chest wants to celebrate this spirit, and invite more to join us on this giving journey.
6. As such, I am pleased to announce that the Community Chest Christmas On A Great Street Light-Up Ceremony 2021 will also symbolise the start of the giving season. The Great Singapore Give –

a joint initiative by the National Council of Social Service, the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre and SG Cares, will take place from now, in the lead-up to SG Cares Giving Week from 1 to 7 December, to the end of the year. Throughout the festive season, Singaporeans can also look forward to other opportunities curated by Community Chest to give back and bring joy to communities-in-need.

7. Before we kickstart the season of giving, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our main sponsor Hitachi Group of Companies in Singapore, the Singapore Tourism Board and Mastercard, without whom this annual light-up ceremony would not have been possible.

8. I would also like to express my appreciation to:
 - a. Our donors PropNex Realty, Illumina Singapore, Toppers Education Centre Pte Ltd, DBS Bank Ltd, Petrochemical Corporation of Singapore Pte Ltd, Singapore-Industry Scholarship, Evangel Family Church and Mr Phillip Tan;
 - b. Our venue sponsor Shaw House; and
 - c. Our partners Isetan Singapore, Royal Plaza on Scotts, Orchard Gateway @ Emerald, Wisma Atria, Lion Befrienders, Singapore Institute of Technology, and all who have contributed in one way or another to make this event possible.

9. Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow co-chairperson, Mr Chris Chong, and committee members, Mr Edward Yue, Mr Jimmy Teo, Mr Michael Tay, Mr Peter Wee, Mr Richard Tan, Mr Steven Goh and Mr Lim Kean Bon for your invaluable contributions.

10. It goes without saying that 2021 has not been easy on our collective mental well-being. This festive season, we encourage Singaporeans to check in with one another, lend a listening ear to those close to them, and to give back to those who need it. As we light up Orchard Road, it is also our hope that we, as one nation, can emerge stronger and brighter through any challenges that may come our way. Thank you and enjoy the evening.