

EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY
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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR NICHOLAS IONIDES
CO-CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY CHEST VERTICAL MARATHON 2021
COMMITTEE
VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, MARINA BAY SANDS
5 SEPTEMBER 2021**

- Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament and Advisor to National Council of Social Service,
- Ms Sun Xueling, Minister of State for Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social and Family Development,
- Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman, Community Chest,
- Mr Paul Town, Chief Operating Officer of Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd,
- Partners and friends from our strong community of corporate representatives and sponsors,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. A very good morning. Welcome to the launch of Community Chest's first virtual Vertical Marathon 2021.
2. On behalf of Community Chest and Marina Bay Sands (MBS), we would like to thank our Guest of Honour Speaker Tan and Host Minister Sun for joining us today in launching the Community Chest Vertical Marathon 2021. Since 2011, MBS has been the co-organiser of Community Chest Heartstrings Walk with the vertical marathon as a segment to the event. Mindful of safe distancing measures, we have decided to bring back the Community Chest Vertical Marathon as a standalone virtual vertical marathon.
3. Community Chest Vertical Marathon 2021 features an interactive digital platform that will take participants on a virtual expedition to scale five different peaks across the region. Familiar peaks such as Singapore's Bukit Timah Hill standing at 163 metres and Indonesia's Mount Batur standing at 1,717 metres are part of this

adventure. Participants have the flexibility to track their elevation via climbing stairs or hills and will receive an e-badge upon completing the respective elevation tied to each peak.

4. In this engaging digital format, we welcome everyone to join us on an adventure to scale these virtual peaks at their own time and pace. Together, we can be a unifying force to bring greater positivity and impact to our community.
5. This truly epitomises and brings to life the spirit of Community Chest Vertical Marathon 2021's slogan, 'Together We Soar'. With our slogan, "Together We Soar" – and in celebration of Community Chest's 38th anniversary, this virtual event is aimed at rallying the community to achieve a collective goal of 38,000m elevation over the campaign period from the 5th of September to 31st of October 2021. But it is not about accolades. More importantly, it is about unifying the community to support a good cause as we soar together to realise a Singapore that is caring and inclusive for all.
6. In line with the Year of Celebrating SG Women, we have also partnered with four talented women to present our inaugural Charity Masterclass series which will be happening in September to bolster the fundraising efforts of Community Chest Vertical Marathon. These Charity Masterclass series will be led by four female instructors, each championing their own passion to encourage the community to stay mentally and physically active, while fundraising for a good cause. We welcome everyone to join us in these classes and do good at the same time.
7. To all our sponsors, corporate partners, donors, and members of the organising committee – please accept my sincere appreciation for your collective efforts. Without your continuing and tireless support and donations received, none of this would have been possible.
8. As we navigate the challenges ahead, let us continue to support social service agencies so that they can sustain delivery of critical services to meet the increasing and more complex needs of service users. Together, we can build a caring and inclusive community.

9. We look forward to having you join this first virtual Community Chest Vertical Marathon. Registration is now open. You can sign up from today till 3rd October and have till 31st October to conquer all the five peaks - start climbing for a good cause!
Thank you.