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**SPEECH BY DR ANG SENG BIN
CO-CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY CHEST HEARTSTRINGS WALK –
SG50 COMMUNITY HEARTBEATS ORGANISING COMMITTEE
AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL
SERVICE
7 AUGUST 2015, FRIDAY 9.40AM
AT THE COMMUNITY CHEST HEARTSTRINGS WALK 2015 – SG50
COMMUNITY HEARTBEATS**

**Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating
Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs,**

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister for Social and Family Development,

**Mr George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive Officer
of Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd**

Mr Phillip Tan, Chairman, Community Chest

Ms Jennie Chua, Adviser, Community Chest

Members of NCSS, Voluntary Welfare Organisations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. A very warm welcome to all this morning. We are off to a great start for the highly anticipated Jubilee Weekend. Thank you, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and Minister Tan Chuan Jin, for joining us today.

2. I would also like to extend our gratitude to the co-organiser – Marina Bay Sands who has partnered NCSS to organise Community Chest Heartstrings Walk @ Marina Bay since 2011.

Their steadfast support over these years has been invaluable to Comchest.

3. The Jubilee Weekend is a special time to bring Singaporeans together to celebrate our 50th year of independence, and we are thrilled that the Community Chest Heartstrings Walk 2015 - SG50 Community Heartbeats, is the first event to kick-start the celebrations.

4. This signature event under the Care & Share Movement for SG50, brings together donors, volunteers, beneficiaries and the public together to create something special. This is in line with the spirit of the Movement – that is to bring our community together to show care and concern for those in need, and to recognise the contributions made by Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs).

5. I am heartened to see many people from all walks of life – over 9,260 of you– making time to support a common cause in caring and sharing as we grow to be a more inclusive society. Also with us today, are more than 1,800 beneficiaries and their caregivers, from over 60 VWOs under the Care & Share Movement. We are very encouraged to see the strong community involvement. I would like to thank everyone for making this jubilee celebration a meaningful and inclusive one for all.

6. This year, for the first time, we have introduced a special percussion element in the Walk. About 300 beneficiaries and

corporate volunteers had practised enthusiastically over the past month to drum in harmony – a symbolic act to represent the heartbeat of a caring community. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Community drumming in Singapore. 10 years ago, 2000 students from secondary schools, Institute of Technical Education, Polytechnics, Singapore Association for the Deaf, SOKA and other community-based organizations came together during the Community Drumming Festival 2005 at ITE college East - Many Beats, One Heart.

The event lead by the People's Association Youth Groups in the Southeast district was the start of community drumming groups in Singapore. Today, many organisations including VWOs are using community drumming in the work with their clients from all walks of life, race, physical or mental abilities. Mr Syed Ibrahim from One heartbeat percussions who is here with us today can be considered as the father of community drumming in Singapore who was involved in conceptualising the inaugural event and growing the movement (*Invite Mr Syed to stand up*). The theme “Many Beats, One Heart” resonates with what I feel for the social service sector today. We have many different organisations serving the needs of the under-privileged in various innovative ways making up the “Many Beats” but all with the same goal for helping them – “One Heart”. Regardless of your race, religion, physical or mental ability, each of your unique rhythm under skilful facilitation, form part of this magical piece of music we heard earlier. This shows that all of us if

we play an active role in the community we live in can make Singapore a better place for all.

7. Our beneficiaries can thrive and excel because of the help they received from charities. Your support and generosity has enabled:

- our children with special needs and youth-at-risk to achieve their fullest potential,
- adults with disabilities to integrate into society,
- relationships of families in difficulty to stay strong and;
- frail and lonely elderly to age graciously with dignity in the community.

8. All donations, including the registration fee of \$10, will be fully channelled towards charities supported by Community Chest. Funds raised from the event will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Government under the Care & Share Movement for SG50.

9. In the spirit of the Care & Share Movement, we would like to rally the community to continue to support our charities. This is indeed a timely coming together for the community to share your success with those in needs, and to make a difference as we celebrate the nation's 50th birthday. On behalf of Community Chest, the charities under our care, and our beneficiaries, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation.

Thank you.