

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR EDMUND TIE,
ORGANISING CO-CHAIRMAN OF 'THE BAYANIHAN
EXPERIENCE – EMBRACING TIES THAT BIND'
AT THE 'THE BAYANIHAN EXPERIENCE – EMBRACING TIES
THAT BIND' CONCERT
TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2009, AT 8 PM
ESPLANADE CONCERT HALL**

**Your Excellency, Mr S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore
and Patron-in-chief of the National Council of Social Service**

Mrs Nathan

**Her Excellency Minda Calaguian - Cruz, Ambassador of the Republic of
the Philippines**

Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of Parliament

**Ms Jennie Chua, Chairman of Community Chest and President
Emeritus of the Philippine Bayanihan Society (Singapore)**

Your Excellencies

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

A very warm welcome to all of you and thank you for joining us for an evening of a unique cultural experience of music, song and dance from The Philippines. May I first extend my special THANKS to Mr President Sir and Mrs Nathan, for their esteemed presence this evening. Despite his busy schedule, having just flown back to Singapore from Turkey, Mr President Sir was most gracious in accepting our invitation for tonight's event.

2 “The Bayanihan Experience – Building Ties that Bind” sets the theme for tonight’s performance as it manifests the celebrations marking 40 years of Philippine - Singapore relations. Tonight also marks the celebration of the communal spirit between both our communities, with about 145,000 Filipinos living and working with the Singaporean community here. This close relationship is further demonstrated through this evening’s charity concert which seeks to raise funds for the **Philippine Bayanihan Society** to help the needy and the Filipino community in Singapore to upgrade their skills. Such training skills including basic and advanced computer training, nursing aide, cooking and baking, and dressmaking at the Bayanihan Centre, enable the Filipino workers here to upgrade their skills to improve their financial and living conditions for themselves and their families.

3 Funds raised tonight from all our generous donors will also take **Community Chest** a step closer to raising \$52.6 million annually to help more than 340,000 frail elderly, children and adults with disabilities, and families in need - in receiving timely care through 155 critical social service programmes. **Children with special needs** require more resources like teachers or therapists for dedicated attention and skills to help them lead independent lives. Support is crucial for **families in distress** where services such as counselling and support groups can help families cope with the stresses of life, especially during the current economic downturn. As for the

elderly, they deserve a dignified life with home care support to enable them to receive optimal care and family love.

4 On behalf of Community Chest and the Philippine Bayanihan Society, I must thank Ambassador Cruz and the Embassy of Philippines for kindly providing us with this fund-raising opportunity in specially arranging for the Bayanihan National Dance Company of the Philippines, to perform here for a charitable cause. I am sure we will all enjoy this evening's concert by the internationally acclaimed Bayanihan, who have performed in more than 700 cities worldwide, and who will thrill us with a colourful and vibrant display of indigenous Philippine art forms in music, dance, costumes and folklore.

5 I must also thank a very special group of people – my fellow committee members for their support - Laura Hwang, Eric Ang, Stephen Chu, Lim Ee Seng, Tan Puay Kern, Joseph Abuan, Renato De Guzman, Roberto S. Mariano, Noel Perdigon. And to Ms Jennie Chua (affectionately referred to as my “Big Boss”) for her guidance.

6 Last but not least, a BIG THANKS to all of you and our generous donors and benefactors for your support to the worthy causes we so deeply care for. I wish you all a most enjoyable evening ahead.