

**EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY**  
**PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR EDMUND TIE,  
CHAIRMAN OF STEERING COMMITTEE  
FOR GIFTS OF LOVE CHARITY GALA 2011  
3 JUNE 2011, FRIDAY, 7.30PM AT FAIRMONT BALLROOM,  
RAFFLES CITY CONVENTION CENTRE**

**Your Excellency, President SR Nathan, Patron-in-Chief of the  
National Council of Social Service**

**Mrs Nathan**

**Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, Speaker of Parliament**

**Mrs Tarmugi**

**Her Excellency Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz, Patron and  
Advisor of the Philippine Bayanihan Society (Singapore)**

**Ms Jennie Chua, Chairman of Community Chest**

**Excellencies**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good evening and a very warm welcome to the “Gifts of Love”  
Charity Gala 2011. This evening, we are truly honoured and

privileged to have President SR Nathan and Mrs Nathan with us to celebrate “giving”. Thank you, President Nathan and Mrs Nathan for your strong support over the years.

2 It also gives me great pleasure to thank all of you for your kind donations and sponsorship. On behalf of the beneficiaries of Community Chest and the Philippine Bayanihan Society (Singapore), I thank you for your generosity.

3 Community Chest has been raising funds for the less fortunate in society for almost 30 years since 1983. With the support from corporate donors and generous individuals like each of you here tonight, Community Chest is able to make headway towards our goal of raising \$55.7 million this year to help some 300,000 beneficiaries which include:

- children with special needs and youths-at-risk;
- persons with disabilities;

- frail and lonely elderly; and
- families facing difficulties.

4 It is heartening to note that Community Chest currently has the support of more than 225,000 individual donors and 2,200 corporate donors. We wish to thank all generous individuals and our corporate partners for their commitment and dedication in helping the needy.

5 Another beneficiary of tonight's fund-raising effort is the Philippine Bayanihan Society (Singapore). With your support, the Society can continue to provide skills training and development opportunities for the large Filipino community in Singapore as well as create avenues for strengthening ties between Filipinos and Singaporeans.

6 In a short while, we shall commence the charity auction. I urge everyone to participate actively and bid generously in the charity auction to support these worthy causes. We have received many

exclusive “Gifts of Love”, including an idyllic resort get-away to Phuket, air tickets to Brazil by SIA, paintings by renowned artist, Henri Chen KeZhan and exquisite wines. To the donors who have provided these gifts for the charity auction, I am deeply grateful.

7 I would like to express my deep gratitude to President Nathan for the many hours he spent to practise and skilfully create a piece of Chinese calligraphy entitled “愛” (“Ai”) (or Love) in support of his “Gift of Love” which sets the theme for our fund-raising efforts tonight. The embedded character “心” (“Xin”), which means “heart”, also conveys the message of loving with your heart. May I now invite you to view a short video of His Excellency, The President, creating his “Gift of Love” for this occasion – a Chinese calligraphy entitled ‘愛’ (“Ai”). *(Screening of video)*

8 Thank you, President, for your invaluable gift to the beneficiaries of tonight’s event.

9 My heartfelt thanks also goes to the members of the Steering Committee – Joseph Abuan, Eric Ang, Edmund Chen, Stephen Chu, Jennie Chua, Her Excellency Minda Cruz, Laura Hwang, Lim Ee Seng, Tatang Tabrani and Tan Puay Kern – for their support and efforts in making tonight’s event a success.

10 Tonight’s programme promises exciting performances by Filipino artistes, Ogie Alcasid and RJ Rosales, led by Music Director, Iskandar Ismail.

11 Thank you all once again for your generous support and donations and for taking time to attend tonight’s dinner. I wish all of you a most enjoyable time ahead.