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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

## **Launch of \$4 million Kong Meng San – Community Development Council COVID-19 Relief Fund**

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The COVID-19 pandemic affects everyone in one way or another. In times of physical distancing, the Community Development Councils (CDCs) are building bridges of kindness and compassion through the Many Helping Hands approach, bringing together corporate and religious institutions to help complement the efforts of the Government. This “Many Helping Hands” approach has helped to build a stronger and more resilient Singapore.

2 The five CDCs are pleased to partner Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery (KMSPKS) in setting up a new \$4 million Kong Meng San-CDC COVID-19 Relief Fund to help more Singaporeans households, regardless of religions, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through loss of jobs, retrenchment or total loss of income.

3 This is the first-time a religious institution has donated such a large amount (\$2 million) to the five CDCs for a COVID-19 Relief initiative. The Monastery is grateful to be given this opportunity to contribute to society by helping people during this challenging time. With this donation, the CDCs will match the donation with their own \$2 million, making a total of \$4 million for the KMS-CDC COVID-19 Relief.

4 This afternoon, **our Guest-of-Honour, Mr Masagos Zulkifli**, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for Health, launched the **KMS-CDC COVID-19 Relief Fund** at a simple ceremony at the KMSPKS Meditation Hall, together with Chairman of Mayors’ Committee and Minister of State Mayor Low Yen Ling, Mayor Denise Phua, Mayor Desmond Choo, Mayor Alex Yam, Mayor Fahmi Aliman, as well as Abbot Venerable Sik Kwang Sheng, Mr Chng Hwee Hong, Deputy Chairman of KMSPKS Finance and Investment Committee, and Mr Lim Hock Yu, Chief Executive Director, People’s Association.

5 KMSPKS and Community Partners such as Grassroots Organisations will identify the beneficiaries for this Fund. This Fund aims to assist up to 8,000 households with each eligible household receiving a one-off assistance of \$500.

6 The **KMS - CDC COVID-19 Relief Fund** is only open to Singaporeans aged 21 years old and above who are currently unemployed and have experienced a total loss of income due to non-voluntary no pay leave, retrenchment or termination for at least three months at point of application. Each successful applicant (and his/ her household) will receive a one-time relief of \$500.

7 To ensure that more households can benefit from the Fund, household beneficiary should not be the recipients of other CDC-related COVID-19 Relief Funds.

### Quotes

8 **Ms Low Yen Ling, Chairman of Mayors' Committee and Mayor of South West District**

“The current COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted livelihoods and jobs. We have joined hands with KMSPKS to reach out to individuals and families affected by the crisis. This new Fund aims to give them a leg-up financially as they cope with the loss of jobs or income. In addition, the CDCs have ongoing re-skilling and job matching programmes that open up work opportunities. Organisations like KMSPKS play an integral role in strengthening the resilience of our community. Together, we help ensure no one is left behind and that those who need help, can get the support and attention they need.”

9 **Venerable Sik Kwang Sheng, Abbot, Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery**

“The Buddha embodies the selfless spirit of compassion and wisdom. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly disrupted our society and gravely impacted Singaporeans' lives and livelihoods. More than ever, we need to extend compassion and a helping hand to others. We hope this new fund can bring healing to the hearts and minds of those drastically affected by the pandemic. May the gift allow them to see light and goodness in the world, and to gain strength to surmount challenges with perseverance, determination and resilience.”

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## **About the CDCs**

Since 1997, the Community Development Councils (CDCs) have been bridging communities (i.e. by strengthening local social infrastructure, building social resilience and social capital, and promoting the culture of giving back), through the following functions:

- (a) Aggregator of Needs and Resources
- (b) Builder of Capability / Capacity in Partners and Networks
- (c) Connector of Communities

2 There are five CDCs, namely, Central Singapore, North East, North West, South East and South West CDCs. Mayors of the Districts are Chairman of the respective CDCs. The Office of the Mayors comprises:

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|-----------------------------|--|
| (a) Ms Low Yen Ling         | Chairman of Mayors' Committee & Mayor of South West District |
| (b) Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng | Mayor of Central Singapore District                          |
| (c) Mr Desmond Choo         | Mayor of North East District                                 |
| (d) Mr Alex Yam             | Mayor of North West District                                 |
| (e) Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman    | Mayor of South East District                                 |

For more information, please visit [www.cdc.gov.sg](http://www.cdc.gov.sg) and [www.pa.gov.sg](http://www.pa.gov.sg).

## **About Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery**

Founded in 1921, Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery (KMSPKS) is one of the most significant and renowned monasteries in Southeast Asia. A spiritual sanctuary in the heart of urban Singapore, KMSPKS is visited by thousands of devotees each year to learn the Buddha's teachings of wisdom and compassion; practise mindfulness; develop gratitude and bring happiness to all.

Over the years, KMSPKS has grown dynamically in Dharma propagation, community involvement, and religious harmony efforts. As an active contributor to the community, KMSPKS offers a range of community services and family-friendly activities.

Under the leadership of current abbot Venerable Sik Kwang Sheng, KMSPKS has also established the Buddhist College of Singapore (BCS) to nurture outstanding Buddhist leaders of the future.

## GLOSSARY AND TRANSLATION OF KEY TERMS

### KMS-CDC COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation
1.	KMS-CDC COVID-19 RELIEF FUND	光明山社理会疫情基金	Kong Meng San - Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Dana Bantuan COVID-19

### THE KONG MENG SAN PHOR KARK SEE MONASTERY

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation
2.	Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery	光明山普觉禅寺
3.	Abbot, Venerable Sik Kwang Sheng	释广声大和尚

### FUNCTIONS OF THE CDCs

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation
4.	<u>A</u> ggregator of Needs and Resources	顺应需求，汇集整合资源	Aggregat keperluan dan sumber
5.	<u>B</u> uilder of Capabilities and Capacities	提升能力，扩大网络	Pembina Keupayaan dan Kebolehan
6.	<u>C</u> onnector of Communities	加强联系，造福社群	Penyambung Komuniti

**CDC**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Key Term</b>	<b>Chinese Translation</b>	<b>Malay Translation</b>
7.	Community Development Council (CDC)	社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat
8.	Central Singapore CDC	中区社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Singapura Tengah
9.	North East CDC	东北社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Timur Laut
10.	North West CDC	西北社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Barat Laut
11.	South East CDC	东南社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Tenggara
12.	South West CDC	西南社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Barat Daya
13.	Mayor	市长	Mayor / Datuk Bandar (formal address)
14.	Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District Chairperson, Mayors' Committee	刘燕玲女士, 西南区市长市长委员会主席	Ms Low Yen Ling, Datuk Bandar, Daerah Barat Daya Pengerusi, Jawatankuasa Datuk Bandar
15.	Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng, Mayor of Central Singapore District	潘丽萍女士, 中区市长	Ms Denise Phua, Datuk Bandar, Daerah Singapura Tengah
16.	Mr Desmond Choo Mayor of North East District	朱倍庆, 东北区市长	Mr Desmond Choo, Datuk Bandar, Daerah Timur Laut
17.	Mr Alex Yam Ziming, Mayor of North West District	任梓铭, 西北区市长	Mr Alex Yam, Datuk Bandar, Kawasan Barat Laut
18.	Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East District	阙贺米, 东南区市长	Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman, Datuk Bandar, Kawasan Tenggara

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Key Term</b>	<b>Chinese Translation</b>	<b>Malay Translation</b>
19.	District Councillors	社区理事	Ahli Majlis Daerah
20.	Grassroots Advisers	基层组织顾问	Penasihat Akar Umbi
21.	Grassroots Organisations (GROs)	社区基层组织	Persatuan Akar Umbi