

**SPEECH BY MAYOR LOW YEN LING, CHAIRMAN OF MAYORS' COMMITTEE AND MAYOR OF SOUTH WEST DISTRICT AT LAUNCH OF KONG MENG SAN (KMS) – CDC COVID-19 RELIEF FUND ON SATURDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2020, 2PM, AT KONG MENG SAN PHOR KARK SEE (KMSPKS) MONASTERY, NEW MEDITATION HALL**

---

1 A very good afternoon to all friends. This is a really beautiful building. Can we put our hands together and congratulate Abbot and the Management Committee, please.

2 A very good afternoon to our Guest of Honour Minister Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and of course Minister for Muslim Affairs.

3 Also a very good afternoon to my Fellow Mayors. Please wave wherever you are when I shout out your name – Mayor Denise Phua, Mayor of Central Singapore District, Mayor Desmond Choo, Mayor of North East District, Mayor Alex Yam, Mayor of North West District and Mayor Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East District, also, our CED Mr Lim Hock Yu, CED of People's Association.

4 Of course, 非常感恩感恩 Abbot, Venerable Sik Kwang Sheng. A big hand to him and 光明山普觉禅寺 Management Committee. Can we put our hands together to thank them again.

5 Really, I will just say a few words on behalf of the five Mayors and then pass the time to Minister Masagos.

6 Thank you for joining us today this very simple but very significant ceremony at 光明山普觉禅寺 Meditation Hall and this is a brand new hall. You can feel it and you can smell it, to launch the Kong Meng San – CDC COVID-19 Relief Fund.

7 The five CDCs are very privileged to be able to work with individuals and partners who are compassionate and passionate about helping the community and this new \$4 million COVID-19 Relief Fund, that is set up together with 光明山普觉禅寺, will go a long way in helping some 8,000 households affected by COVID-19 pandemic. Each of these households will receive a one-time assistance of \$500 to help them tide over the difficult period.

8 This partnership is an example of how religious organisations like 光明山普觉禅寺 are partnering the CDCs to build a caring and inclusive society for people of all faith and despite the economic uncertainty, 光明山普觉禅寺 has generously donated \$2million to kickstart the Kong Meng San-CDC COVID-19 fund and the CDCs will match their \$2million donation to bring the fund to a total of \$4million.

9 Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, such collaborations play an ever more critical role in bolstering our social safety network and community resilience. It helps us meet evolving needs and emerging needs, and we will continue to identify emerging gaps in social support to complement national COVID relief schemes, including the new CRSG that is rolled out generously by MSF. 光明山普觉禅寺 kind generosity underscores the unity we have as a community – that regardless of our faith or different beliefs, we are one people - and we will help each other get through this time together.

10 And on this note, the five Mayors will want to assure our partners that the CDCs will continue to aggregate the needs and resources, build capabilities in our partners and connect communities to meet the needs of our people.

11 So let us stay united and resilient, and together, we will certainly emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

12 In 12 days' time, we are going to welcome year 2021, so the five Mayors would like to wish everyone good health as health is the real wealth, happiness, fulfilment and success in everything you do in 2021. Happy New Year. 谢谢，感恩。