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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kong Meng San – Community Development Council COVID-19 Relief Fund extended and enhanced to provide more financial assistance to eligible Singaporeans

The five Community Development Councils (CDCs) and Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery (KMSPKS) are pleased to announce the enhanced **Kong Meng San-CDC COVID-19 Relief Fund**.

2 The Fund will open for registration from **now till 31 March 2023** to help more Singaporeans, including those who are self-employed, cope with rising costs of living and inflationary pressures. Each successful applicant will receive **\$800 per household**.

3 Eligible Singaporeans can apply for assistance from the Fund at KMSPKS (88 Bright Hill Road, Singapore 574117) or at any Community Centres/Clubs (CCs). They may submit the hardcopy application form together with the required supporting documents. Alternatively, they may submit their applications online via the CDC websites with supporting documents.

4 Applicants must be Singaporean aged 21 years old and above, and have experienced:

- a) A total loss of income due to non-voluntary no-pay leave, retrenchment or termination for at least two months at the point of application; or
- b) Income loss of at least 30% from all jobs prior to application*.

*Applicant must have monthly gross income of \$3,000 or less.

Quotes

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

“As we move towards a post-Covid new normal, there’s no letting up in the CDCs’ efforts to uplift the vulnerable among us. We’re grateful for our partner, KMSPKS continuing their support of Singaporeans in need, and making this collective effort between the private, public and people sectors possible. The CDCs will match the generous donation dollar-for-dollar. As we do so, we hope to further stretch the level



of assistance, especially for those coping with rising living costs amid the loss of jobs or livelihoods. This relief fund complements the pool of local assistance schemes, and re-skilling and job matching opportunities that CDCs provide for at-risk residents.”

6 Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng, Mayor of Central Singapore District

“Being close to the ground, the CDCs are well positioned to understand the needs of the community. For years, we have rallied and mobilised our strong network of partners to co-create solutions and implement programmes that assist the needy and bond the community.

I am grateful for the compassion and cooperation shown by KMSPKS to do good for Singaporeans who are in need, regardless of race or religion. This initiative truly embodies the spirit of our country and brings us more hope and strength in such times of uncertainties.”

7 Mr Desmond Choo, Mayor of North East District

“We have neared the end of a life-altering pandemic. However, global events continue to impact our lives in unimaginable ways. Daily household expenses are rising and we are uncertain of what the future holds for us.

However, as Singaporeans, we will continue to stand united as one with resilience, strength and compassion for one another. We are thankful to partners such as KMSPKS for joining us hand in hand and sharing our passion and dedication to helping our communities thrive.”

8 Mr Alex Yam, Mayor of North West District

“The enhancements to the KMS – CDC COVID-19 Relief Fund come at a timely juncture as Singapore embarks on its transition to living with COVID-19, and things return to a sense of normalcy.

These past two years have been a trying ordeal for many families in Singapore. As we move through this transition, it is a reminder to us all to not forget our neighbours and friends who may need a helping hand. We hope these enhancements to the scheme give a leg-up to help those in need to emerge stronger from the pandemic.”

9 Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East District

“We are thankful to KMSPKS for their donation and cooperation in managing this COVID-19 Relief Fund, with the goal to support Singaporeans and their livelihoods. A month ago, the Mayors, together with KMSPKS, had reviewed and made improvements so that we can better meet the needs of residents through this Fund.

These enhancements that we have rolled out will no doubt bring more assistance to families that are struggling. The process of application for this Fund has also been made seamless and more accessible, through online channels and physical touchpoints at our



CCs and the Monastery itself. We hope more households who meet the criteria of the Fund will come forward to benefit from this Fund, as well as the many initiatives and programmes in place at our CDCs.”

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

“Compassion is a core tenet of the Buddha's teaching, and central to our faith. With the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacting the lives of individuals in the community over the past 2 years -- and continuing to take its toll despite easing safe management measures -- KMSPKS is duty-bound as followers of the Buddha to help bring healing to the hearts and minds of those affected. The monastery is blessed to be able to expand our Covid relief fund so that more individuals and families will be able to receive a helping hand amid these challenging times.”

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Online applications for the Fund can be accessed via the CDC websites at the following URLs:

Central Singapore CDC
<https://go.gov.sg/kms-cscdc>



North East CDC
<https://go.gov.sg/necdckms>



North West CDC
<https://go.gov.sg/kms-nwcdc>



South East CDC
<https://go.gov.sg/secdckms>



South West CDC
<https://go.gov.sg/kms-swcdc>





About the CDCs

Since 1997, the CDCs have been bridging communities by strengthening social infrastructure, building social resilience and social capital, and promoting a culture of giving back, through the following ways:

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

There are five Community Development Councils (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 and www.pa.gov.sg

About Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery (KMSPKS)

Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery (KMSPKS) is a spiritual sanctuary in urban Singapore where one can learn the Buddha's teachings of wisdom and compassion; practise mindfulness; develop gratitude and bring happiness to all.

Founded in 1921, KMSPKS is one of the first traditional Chinese forest monasteries in Singapore. Today, the monastery sits on 75,470 square metres – equivalent to the size of almost 11 football fields – and is one of the most significant and renowned monasteries in Southeast Asia, seeing thousands of devotees each year. Over the years, KMSPKS has grown dynamically in Dharma propagation, community involvement and religious harmony efforts.- Along with major Buddhist events including Qing Ming Festival, Vesak Day, Ullambana Festival, and The Grand Prayer that Blesses and Benefits All Sentient Beings, KMSPKS also hosts monthly Buddhist talks as well as weekly classes for both the young and old.

In addition, in the spirit of 'giving back', KMSPKS has been eager in its efforts to offer community services and family-friendly activities ranging from counselling, cremation, meditation retreats, yoga sessions, art classes, free tuition to the distribution of food rations and health talks. These deeds have brought residents and the communities closer together, and helped the needy to improve their lives.



For more information, please visit www.kmspks.org or the monastery at 88 Bright Hill Rd, Singapore 574117.