

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR HSIEH FU HUA

CHAIRMAN, SBF FOUNDATION

18 May 2022, 4.30PM

MoU Signing Ceremony for Partnership to enhance support for vulnerable groups to enter or re-enter workforce

A very good afternoon to:

1. **Mr Chee Hong Tat**, Deputy Secretary-General of NTUC
2. **Ms Caryn Lim**, CEO, NTUC's e2i (or Employment and Employability Institute)
3. **Ms Low Peck Kem**, President, Singapore Human Resources Institute
4. **Mr Fong Yong Kian**, Chief Executive, Tote Board
5. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

- 1) Welcome and thank you for your time today to join us at this significant milestone for the Singapore Business Federation Foundation. As the social mission arm of SBF, we are focused on promoting a caring business community, that supports our workforce as well as our society at large.
- 2) Our workforce includes local and migrant employees. For our migrant workers who have been very exposed to the crushing impact of the pandemic, the Foundation, with the support of generous donors, public and social service agencies, has recently launched MigrantWell Singapore, to ensure the access of good primary healthcare for them.
- 3) For our local employees, the SBF Foundation has established other platforms to help uplift those facing temporary or employment setbacks. We initiated the industry-led Compassion Fund in 2020, where businesses within the same industry pool resources to collectively care for affected employees.

- 4) The Employability Fund is another platform to help vulnerable individuals in our society join or re-enter the workforce. The Fund supports employability programmes that reach out to vulnerable groups such as homeless individuals, women facing challenges, unemployed parents of children at-risk and people with mental health conditions. Our hope is for them to be (re)integrated into the workforce and continue to contribute to society.

EMPLOY AND EMPOWER

- 5) On this note, we are most pleased to be gathered here with you today to inaugurate the partnership of 4 key parties. These 4 parties share a common goal to engage and enable the business community to uplift the lives of vulnerable individuals and their families. Let me share on how the 4 partners have pledged to work together.
- 6) The NTUC's e2i is a bridge connecting workers and employers. The institute will share their expertise with partner social service agencies, and build capability to provide differentiated support to meet the needs of vulnerable individuals seeking employment.
- 7) Next, as a leading professional HR body, the Singapore Human Resources Institute will build a community of at least 100 proactive and compassionate HR practitioners who will be part of the Empower Circles network. The network will create a series of conversations where job coaches and HR professionals share best practices that shape progressive hiring.
- 8) The Tote Board will grant funds to contribute towards building an inclusive, resilient and vibrant community, as it catalyses more cross-sector partnerships in support of these vulnerable groups.
- 9) The SBF Foundation will rally the business community to take action via donations or offering employment opportunities. The Foundation targets to raise

\$1 million to support employability programmes for at least 300 vulnerable individuals.

CONCLUSION

- 10) On behalf of SBF Foundation, I would like to thank our partners, the NTUC's e2i, the Singapore Human Resources Institute (SHRI) and the Tote Board, for this collaboration. Our goal is to foster a resilient and inclusive workforce for our society.

- 11) My appreciation also extends to the SBF Foundation's programme partners, the New Hope Community Service, Daughters of Tomorrow, the Singapore Association of Mental Health and SHINE Children and Youth Services. Collectively, they provide the much needed holistic support for the vulnerable individuals within our community.

- 12) We believe that people are at the heart of businesses. A compassionate and proactive business community will create a more sustainable and resilient socio-economic landscape in Singapore. Together with SBF, the SBF Foundation will continue to foster the business community to care for our employees.

- 13) Thank you.

(620 words)