

**SPEECH BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDWARD S TAY AT THE NUSS CHARITY GOLF DINNER**

**1 SEPTEMBER 2022, THURSDAY, 7PM**

**DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

President of the National University of Singapore, Professor Tan Eng Chye

Chairman of the Children's Wishing Well, Mr Maurice Nhan

Chief Executive Officer of the Dover Park Hospice, Mr Timothy Liu

Director of the NUS Office of Alumni Relations, Mr Bernard Toh

Chairman of the NUS Alumni Student Advancement Committee, Mr Seah Cheng San

NUSS Past Presidents, Mr Lai Kim Seng, Mr. Johnny Tan, Mr David Ho and Mr Eddie Lee

Charity Golf 2022 Organising Chairperson, Mr Joseph Ng

Distinguished Guests, Fellow Members, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the National University of Singapore Society, or NUSS, I would like to welcome you to this NUSS Charity Golf Dinner. I would also like to thank NUS President, Professor Tan Eng Chye for gracing this occasion as our Guest of Honour.

Meritocracy has always been a bastion of the Singapore society on the back of which many in Singapore society have been able to climb the social ladder. However, meritocracy is meaningless in the absence of equality of opportunities and, in this aspect, education is paramount. Singapore has always promised that no person in Singapore will be deprived of an education because of financial constraints.

But our alma mater, has set the bar higher. Much higher. The National University of Singapore, or NUS, recently announced a financial support scheme whereby all students from households with a per capita income of \$1,000 will enjoy tuition-free education. NUS has even gone further than that. NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye and his colleagues recognise that NUS undergraduates who have lived in campus residences and who have gone for exchange programmes enjoy a tremendous advantage over those who don't. Also recognising that students from poorer families are unlikely to be able to afford either of these, NUS will also give students from households with a per capita income of \$690 or less additional financial support for living expenses, on-campus stay and overseas exposure. To quote Eng Chye - these students are now given the "Business Class" education they are otherwise unable to afford.

Being the largest alumni organisation in NUS, NUSS is privileged to make its small contribution towards this initiative. The NUS Alumni Bursary Fund or ABF campaign, was launched in 2013 with seed funding by NUSS, who had pledged to donate to the ABF campaign a sum of up to \$250,000 per year. NUSS has worked with the other NUS alumni organisation to leverage on this pledge. To date, the ABF stands in excess of \$25 million.

NUSS' contributions and fundraising have supported many bursary funds, in particular, the NUS Alumni Bursary and the NUSS Golf Section Bursary. Tonight, we are pleased to make a donation of \$641,000 towards a new bursary, to be named the "NUSS Bursary". This is the highest amount raised by our charity golf event since it was first organised in 2011. This would not have been possible without your generous support, and I thank all of you.

The NUSS Bursary, like all the other bursaries under the ABF campaign, is an endowed bursary. Because of NUS's financial prudence and genius, the capital from these contributions will never be touched. Instead, with the investment returns from these contributions coupled with matching contributions from the government, NUS is able to grant a perpetual bursary of \$2,500 per year for every \$25,000 donated. That means that the Alumni Bursary Fund is able to grant 1,000 bursaries of \$2,500 each every year!

In addition, each donation of \$25,000 will accord to the donor a bursary which can be sub-named after a person or persons or an organisation of his or her choice.

We are also grateful to the Tote Board, which has continually supported our fundraising efforts through the years. This year, the Tote Board, had generously agreed to match up to \$100,000 of our donations.

NUSS will also be supporting two other organisations tonight.

Though its partnership with the Children's Wishing Well, NUSS is gratified to be able to reach out to younger children who we hope will in due time join the ranks of our undergraduates. The Children's Wishing Well focuses on the holistic learning needs of children with customised programmes to meet the unique talents, interests and needs of every child. My colleague, Mr Daniel Chia, Chairman of the NUSS Community Care and Cultural Sub-Committee intends to explore ways in which our members can also directly engage and mentor the Children's Wishing Well beneficiaries on meaningful basis. We are honoured by the presence of the Chairman of the Children's Wishing Well, Mr Maurice Nhan.

While our focus is, and will remain, with education in general and our alma mater in particular, we have not neglected another segment of our population at the other end of the spectrum. Thus our partnership with the Dover Park Hospice. The Dover Park Hospice treasures life even during a person's last days and with compassion seeks to alleviate suffering and maximise the quality of life for the terminally-ill. We are also honoured by the presence of Chief Executive Officer of the Dover Park Hospice, Mr Timothy Liu.

I wish to thank especially the NUSS Golf Section for their efforts in organising this successful Charity Golf.

I would also like to thank the NUS Alumni Student Advancement Committee, NUS Office of Alumni Relations and NUS Development Office for their unrelenting support in driving this effort.

There are two persons whom I would be remiss if I do not single out, for special mention. Our Golf Convenor, Mr Joseph Ng and our fellow member, Mr Yeo Keng Joon, have both been unrelenting in their efforts to canvass donations towards the laudable cause of affordable education for all. The efforts of each of them are responsible for a significant amount donated to the ABF campaign over the years and, this year, the NUSS Bursary. Thank you Joe and Keng Joon for your hard work.

Once again, I thank you for your kind donation and have a wonderful evening.