

MALAYSIAN SOLIDARITY FUND AGAINST COVID-19

Press Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 1st September, 2021, Kuala Lumpur

20 multi-racial and multi-faith NGOs to hold Virtual Charity Concert to boost Malaysian Solidarity Fund Against Covid-19

A group of 20 multi-racial and multi-faith NGOs will hold an online Charity Concert called RAISING HOPE VIRTUAL CHARITY CONCERT to boost donations towards the MALAYSIAN SOLIDARITY FUND AGAINST COVID-19 (hereinafter referred to as the “MY SOLIDARITY FUND”). The NGOs involved represents the various major faiths – Islam, Buddhists, Christians, Hindu and Sikhs as well as a number of community service NGOs in Malaysia.

Details of the Concert are as follows:

Event: RAISING HOPE VIRTUAL CHARITY CONCERT

Date of Concert: September 11, 2021 (Saturday)

Time: 8.00pm to 11.00pm

Where: Online and open to public for free viewing via Streaming Live via FB Live on multiple platforms and FB of Raising Hope, Tzu Chi, ABIM, ACCIN, BGF and other NGOs.

Amongst the celebrities performing are Malaysian singers, Francissca Peter, Sean Ghazi, Baby Baby Shima, Vince Chong, Daniel Lee, Dasha Logan including award-winning Bollywood star Mohit Chauhan, Taiwanese singers Ray Lin and Charis, Mark Adams from Philippines and Golden Horse Awards winner for Best Original Film Song, Celeste from Singapore and many others.

The MY SOLIDARITY FUND was set up in May 2021 and spearheaded by Tzu Chi Foundation Malaysia which was subsequently supported by nineteen (19) multi-racial, multi-faith and community service NGOs to raise funds specifically for the purchase of medical equipment such as ventilators, hospital beds, masks, PPEs, oxygen tanks, ICU monitoring equipment, ICU beds, high flow oxygen nasal catheters and other critical medical supplies and items to be donated to as emergency supplies to public hospitals in Malaysia as well as to provide emergency aid of food and cash in order to sustain the poor who are adversely affected by the pandemic.

11 SEPT 2021

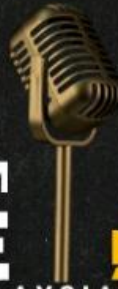
8:00PM-11:00PM

LIVE STREAM

RAISING HOPE

点燃希望

VIRTUAL CHARITY CONCERT FOR MALAYSIAN SOLIDARITY FUND



and many more!

DONATE NOW

www.tzuchi.my/en



Ms Yeo Kar Peng from Tzu Chi Foundation Malaysia said, *“We saw the need in May and started this emergency donation drive to raise funds to buy medical equipment that was critically needed by our hospitals and medical frontliners. We respond to their direct appeals and source the required equipment in consultation with them. Hence, the utilisation of our funds is targeted, and helps relieve our frontliners from fundraising and equipment sourcing so that they can focus on saving lives. Also, by pooling our resources, we are much more efficient and effective as it avoids duplication. To date we have raised over RM25 million – the bulk of which were utilised mainly for the purchase of medical equipment and supplies which was distributed to over 38 hospitals nationwide, including Sabah and Sarawak.*

Our fundraising initiative is always about saving lives and sustaining lives as the Covid-19 situation remains critical and the needs are overwhelming. Of late, we have increased the distribution of our Food Care Packages and Emergency Cash Aid to those who are in need of critical help as they are badly hit by the pandemic and lockdown, and are unable to pay their house rent or even put food on the table.

It is amazing to see how the various NGOs from different faiths and different ethnic groups in Malaysia came alongside us in solidarity to support and be involved in the fund raising which we have named as the Malaysian Solidarity Fund Against Covid-19. In fact, we are making history, in leading by example to sow seeds of loving kindness by transcending race and religions with a pure intent in inspiring hope for a united, caring and harmonious Malaysia. Let us be the change we want to see around us!”

For further details of the full list of beneficiary hospitals & videos of the distribution of items, please see: <https://www.tzuchi.my/en/>

All donations can be made at: <https://www.tzuchi.my/en/> and are eligible for income tax deduction purposes.

In representing the Catholic Bishops Conference of Malaysia, as one of the faith based organisations actively involved in this fundraising effort, the Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, Rev Julian Leow said, *“It is truly heartening to see faith communities and leaders including leaders from civil societies in Malaysia coming together to the aid of our medical frontliners and the most vulnerable communities. Many faith-based organisations and individuals were already doing their bit in reaching out generously in helping the poor and those affected by this pandemic. Malaysians are very caring and concerned for the less fortunate.*

However, when I heard through our Buddhist friends about Tzu Chi’s appeal for funding to assist our healthcare frontliners and hospitals, we decided that coming together as Malaysians from all faiths, we can do much more effectively. Hence, we invited our MCCBCHST components to participate in this noble effort. Other NGOs also joined in supporting and endorsing the effort.

Meeting up with like-minded people sacrificing time and energy to serve the most needy in our society had also spurned collaboration in other areas of serving. Tzu Chi in turn has also offered their resources of PPE and accessories to us in the fight against Covid-19. Tzu Chi's contact of doctors have also volunteered in assisting a PKRCS run by Christians. This is Interfaith collaboration and solidarity in action. We know the pandemic won't be over for anyone until it is over for everyone.

Let us support this Raising Hope Online Concert, bringing hope with our donations to many who are facing formidable challenges before them."

Meanwhile, Haji IR Mohd Jamaludin Mohamed as CEO of the Allied Coordinating Council of Islamic NGOs (ACCIN) said, *"Religious and civil society leaders are among the most trusted figures in our communities, and all of us who are involved in this Malaysian Solidarity Fund are enthusiastic about helping, and one of the great bright spots of this has been that, for the most part, this has brought faith communities much closer together, and saying, we can work on this together, we may differ on some other issues, but we can work together here. And that's been great. Many faith groups are exceptionally good at reaching underserved communities. And that matters a great deal – we help people with language barriers or with information barriers, access barriers or other kinds of access barriers, many poor and vulnerable groups.*

As much as the pandemic poses a great threat to our peace, wellbeing and security, it has also given us an opportunity to demonstrate unity in diversity as we join hands and work together for the benefit of the communities in our nation. This is all the more important as we celebrate our Independence Day and Malaysia Day during this season which will be highlighted in our Raising Hope Virtual Charity Concert on September 11. As the pandemic affects everybody, we are all reminded of our common humanity and that our lives are inter-connected and our survival depends on reciprocal support."

Organizing Chairman of the Raising Hope Virtual Charity Concert, Jason Leong who represents 3 NGOs involved in the Solidarity Fund – Christians for Peace and Harmony in Malaysia (CPHM), Association of NexGen Christians of Malaysia (ANCOM) and Better Dads Malaysia (BDM) said, *"We are grateful to all the celebrities who generously contributed their time and energy to host the event and for their songs during the Concert – most of them are from Malaysia but we have also singers from India, Singapore, Taiwan and Philippines who participated as well. This Concert will be broadcast or live streamed globally through all the various Facebook pages of the celebrities. In preparing for this Concert, I have seen them coming from across the nation and the world alongside us to really show the way of love – a love that has no bounds. The way that it is not a tied to brick and mortar, it is not tied to place, but it is tied to their hearts. Likewise, we appeal to all to donate generously to this worthy cause and you can actually start donating now using the online link.*

And the relationships and partnerships amongst the 20 NGOs which we have forged - these are collaborations that maybe would not have existed if not for the pandemic. But the new kinds of friendships that develop from this, hold a promise far beyond this pandemic. They are friendships, they are relationships, that could be leveraged for other sorts of social challenges in the future, that the various faith communities could be using this as an occasion, not just to solve problems caused by the pandemic this past year, but perhaps to engage with problems in the coming years that may beset us. And in the course of doing so, efforts like this are helping us to actually heal our nation as we continue to build bridges across differences, to show solidarity and to find new ways to work together that maybe we would not have found if we hadn't had to face this challenge together. We are not just raising the national flag together in this season but we are raising hope for this big family in this nation of Malaysia that together we can overcome all. This is so promising – it is very promising for the future challenges that remain. That the kind of information and collaboration, the lessons learned, the relationships built. This notion that as a nation, multifaceted problems require multifaceted responses, and that we need to be in this together is something that bodes well, even as the challenges are profound and real.”

Partial list of celebrities for the Concert:

1. Francissca Peter (Malaysia)
2. Sean Ghazi (Malaysia)
3. Baby Shima (Malaysia)
4. Vince Chong (Malaysia)
5. Daniel Lee (Malaysia)
6. Dasha Logan (Malaysia)
7. Bernie Chan (Malaysia)
8. Nizal Mohamad (Malaysia)
9. Patrick Leong (Malaysia)
10. Janet Lee (Malaysia)
11. Junji Delfino (Malaysia)
12. David Gomez (Malaysia)
13. Venerable Mingyur Rinpoche (Tibetan)
14. Dato' Professor Emeritus Dr Hashim Yaacob (Malaysian)
15. Buddhist i-Gemz Group (Malaysia)
16. Mohit Chauhan (India Bollywood Star)
17. Elvira Arul (Malaysia)
18. Daniel Lee (Malaysia)
19. Charis (Taiwan)
20. Jeslyn Khoo (Sing! China star) (Malaysia)
21. Karmun Ooi (Malaysia)
22. Celeste Syn (Singapore)
23. Tan Boon Wah (Singapore)
24. Tank Lu (Taiwan)
25. Ray Lin (Taiwan)
26. Wei Wei (Malaysia)
27. Saujana – Singing Group (Malaysia)
28. Mark Adam (Philippines)

The MALAYSIAN SOLIDARITY FUND AGAINST COVID-19 is spearheaded by the Tzu Chi Foundation Malaysia which is supported by the group of NGOs as follows:

- 1) Tzu Chi Foundation Malaysia
- 2) Allied Coordinating Committee of Islamic NGOs (ACCIN)
- 3) Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM)
- 4) Global Peace Malaysia (GPM)
- 5) Catholic Bishops Conference Malaysia
- 6) Yayasan Ikram Malaysia (YIM)
- 7) Interactive Muslimah Association (IMAN)
- 8) Christian for Peace and Harmony in Malaysia (CPHM)
- 9) Association of NexGen Christians of Malaysia (ANCOM)
- 10) Malaysia Buddhist Association (MBA)
- 11) Buddhist Missionary Society Malaysia (BMSM)
- 12) Buddhist Gem Fellowship (BGF)
- 13) Vajrayana Buddhist Council of Malaysia (VBCM)
- 14) IBC Malaysia (IBC)
- 15) Losang Dragpa Buddhist Society
- 16) Kasih Hospice Foundation
- 17) Malaysia Hindu Sangam
- 18) Malaysia Gudwaras Council (MGC)
- 19) Project Wawasan Rakyat
- 20) Better Dads Malaysia (BDM)

A Press Kit with more details about the MALAYSIAN SOLIDARITY FUND, the RAISING HOPE VIRTUAL CHARITY CONCERT 911 and the biodata of the celebrities and singers will be forwarded to the media during the Press Conference.

#####

Media Contact for further media interviews with any leaders of the NGOs, celebrities and singers, please contact:

Jason Leong,
Organizing Chairman for RAISING HOPE VIRTUAL CHARITY CONCERT
Adviser to CPHM, ANCOM and BDM
(H/P: 017-6696252)
(Email: jason.cphm@gmail.com)