

2016 Budget (MCCY COS)

**Speech by Mr Thomas Chua, President of
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Nominated Member of Parliament**

13 April 2015

Topic: Encouraging enterprises to volunteer

Chairman, fellow Members of Parliament, the Government has rolled out tax incentives to encourage enterprises to do more charitable work, and set up the “Our Singapore Fund” to promote social cohesion and a caring spirit. This is the right societal guidance.

In fact, many enterprises, including SMEs, do actively participate in all kinds of charitable activities, except that these were not widely publicised by the media. By introducing tax incentives, the Government is endorsing the charitable work by enterprises; moving forward, this could enable enterprises to do even more. Companies which organise charitable activities can “kill two birds with one stone”.

Firstly, it inculcates the spirit of giving back to society, builds up the corporate image, establishes shared values among employees, and strengthens employees’ sense of loyalty.

Secondly, it would improve company bonding and help to cultivate mutual understanding among management and employees. Staff who work in different departments do not usually have the chance to interact with other colleagues. Participating in charitable activities organised by the company gives them the chance to work together and deepen understanding.

However, when companies plan for such activities, it would be more effective if they could take reference from some successful experiences. Hence, I would urge the relevant agency to provide cases of some successful CSR projects as a reference point. While companies could learn by example more easily, charitable organisations would also stand to benefit.