

D(SG) Bruno Luk's remarks
Reception of "Shooting Star" Musical
(April 7, 2018, Kallang Theatre, Singapore)

Mr Fang (Mr Fang Xinwen, chargé d'affaires ad interim, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Singapore), **Dr Ker** (Dr Ker Sin Tze, Adjunct Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy), **Dennis** (Mr Dennis Chiu, President, Hong Kong Singapore Business Association), **Philip** (Mr Philip Chan, President, Kowloon Club), **Clifton** (Mr Clifton Ko, producer of "Shooting Star"), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening and a very warm welcome to you all to the reception of "Shooting Star".

This Hong Kong musical is presented by Spring-Time Experimental Theatre, led by director Clifton Ko. Clifton is no stranger to art fans in Singapore and the region. In recent years, he has brought us a number of signature productions to showcase Hong Kong's theatrical talents, including 鄧麗君 (Teresa), 南海十三郎 (The Mad Phoenix), and 金鎖記 (Golden Cangue). This year he brings us the musical "Shooting Star". The musical has toured around major cities in Mainland China and abroad, including Canada and Malaysia, since its debut overseas in 2007.

The musical this evening will feature over 40 songs sung by Cantopop superstar Leslie Cheung and Danny Chan during the 1980s and 1990s. Leslie and Danny and their songs are no stranger to Chinese all over the world. They are considered to be two of the most talented singers at that time, and many Hong Kong people grew up listening to their songs. Although with great pity both of them have left us at young age: Leslie passed away 15 years ago, and Danny 25 years ago, their songs remain in the heart of many Hong Kong people. Together with veteran DJ Paul Chung, who also passed away in 1989, the trio has been living in Hong Kong people's collective memories. All three of them were featured in the movie 喝采 in 1980, which is also the name of the musical tonight. Tonight, three new generation musical talents from Hong Kong will present to you a story about three young men, also named Leslie, Danny and Paul, who have bright prospect in their show biz career but later encounter different challenges after rising to fame. I am sure the story, as well as the golden songs of Leslie and Danny, will bring back your fond memories of the 80s and 90s.

Another special feature of this evening's musical is the close collaboration between the culture sectors of Hong Kong and Singapore. While the three lead actors and more than 10 members of the production team are from Hong Kong, the rest of the performers and production talents, including dancers and choreographers, are from Singapore. With one of our missions to promote of Hong Kong's soft power in arts and culture in the ASEAN region, we are indeed very delighted to see the collaboration tonight, and we hope to see more cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Singapore as well as other Belt & Road countries in future.

To maintain the vibrancy of Hong Kong's arts and cultural sector, we do not only focus on nurturing local arts professionals, but also create opportunities for our performing arts veterans to share their experience with passionate young people in the cultural scene outside Hong Kong. Just 10 minutes ago, Clifton was having a sharing session with some 30 students, teachers and alumni of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts upstairs. I heard that it was a fruitful session with serious participation by the students. These students will also see for themselves how the theatrical theories are put into practice on stage later on.

During the reception just now, some of you asked me when would be the next show after tonight's musical. Though I can't give you the specific details at this moment, I can assure you that we will continue our effort in showcasing Hong Kong's soft power in arts and culture in this region. Our Financial Secretary has announced in his latest Budget Speech in February that, starting from 2018-19, the Government will provide additional recurrent resources of about S\$17 million to support major and other small and medium arts groups in Hong Kong for their development locally as well as to stage performances outside Hong Kong. With more resources available, you can expect more cultural activities to be brought in from Hong Kong. So stay tuned.

Last but not least, I wish the musical a great success tonight. Thank you for joining us and I wish you all a very enjoyable evening.