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## OUÉ CHEERS THE ELDERLY

TOWN COUNCIL SWEEPER Tay Moey Kia tossed for good luck at the swanky ballroom of the Meritus Mandarin on Jan 21. But as far the 83-year-old was concerned, things were going fine: For the first time in her life, she was having a meal in a top-notch hotel.

“At my age, I doubt if I’ll ever have the experience again,” said the Toa Payoh resident, who also got a \$28 *bongbao*. She added in Hokkien: “I’ll use this to buy household items. I receive only \$200 a month from my adopted children.”

She was one of 400 beneficiaries of the Central Singapore CDC’s Bright Homes programme enjoying the Chinese New Year lunch, laid on by property giant Overseas Union Enterprise, which owns the Mandarin hotels. It included performances by local stars Ah Nan and Lin Ru Ping.

Also attending were Meritus Mandarin and Marina Mandarin hotel staff who were over 62.

OUE’s group managing director, Mr Thio Gim Hock, said: “Chinese New Year symbolises family gatherings and



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01 Tossing for good luck

02 Local star Ah Nan

respect for the elderly. Through this initiative, we hope to bring cheer to the senior community which needs our care.”

He added: “We strongly believe that older employees contribute to the growth of our organisation. In fact, during renovations for Meritus Mandarin Singapore, our older employees, like the rest of our staff, are undergoing cross training and retraining to upgrade their skills.”

Said Madam Tay: “I’ve seen worse times. Now I have a home and work, and free medical care. In the past, where did old people have these things?”