The 13th Parliament sworn in on 15 January 2016 witnessed three firsts which would go down in the history of Singapore. Firstly, a watershed epoch has begun, for it marked the absence of our founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew. Secondly, the first female full minister to helm a ministry has emerged. Ms Grace Fu is now the Minister of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY). Thirdly, she is also the Leader of the House, the first woman to be given the appointment.

President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam in his opening address commented that while Singapore has advanced rapidly from Third World to First, he cautioned that “we cannot expect an easy journey ahead.” The fundamental realities of our existence have not changed. We must be mindful that:

1. We remain a small country with no natural resources apart from our people.
2. Our economy has become more integrated with the ASEAN Community. If ASEAN remains stable and our neighbours prosper, we too will prosper. But if ASEAN is fraught with tension or our neighbours stumble, we too will suffer.
3. We are a nation with limited land and labour. To sustain economic growth amid global competition, we must upgrade the economy. This implies restructuring, meaning that our people and businesses will need to continually adapt and change.
4. Our population is ageing. By 2030, one in four Singaporeans will be aged 65 or older. There will be only two working-age citizens for every senior citizen, down from five today.
5. Our interests and perspectives are becoming more diverse. Forging a cohesive society will be a constant challenge.

To ensure that Singapore is still a shining red dot for the next fifty years, President Dr Tony Tan proposed five motions:

1. First, we will keep Singapore safe and secure;
2. Second, we will renew our economy;
3. Third, we will foster a more caring society;
4. Fourth, we will transform our urban landscape; and
5. Fifth, we will engage and partner with Singaporeans in nation building.

President Dr Tony Tan highlighted the importance of leadership renewal in ensuring our politics work for the long-term good of Singapore. “First, we must continue to have a capable and honest political leadership. This will not happen by chance. Every generation of leaders must develop the next generation consciously and systematically. Every successive Government must take leadership renewal seriously. And every new generation of leaders must win anew the people’s trust, for the right to leadership is not transferable from one generation to the next.”
The ensuing parliamentary debate from 25 to 29 January 2016 was a robust and fruitful one. 19 new Members of Parliament (MPs) and two new Non-Constituency MPs (NCMPs) delivered their maiden speeches. The topics addressed the full spectrum of defence, economic, social, housing, transport, healthcare and national identity. Here are excerpts of the MPs’ opinions on each motion.

**Keeping Singapore Safe and Secure**

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr Amrin Amin said, “We have to involve every single one of us, our people, in our efforts to better protect ourselves from a terrorist attack and its aftermath. Keeping Singapore safe is our shared responsibility. Should the unthinkable happen and a terrorist attack happens, we have to make absolutely sure that the terrorists’ agenda to create chaos and sow discord does not prevail. Not ever! Brick and mortar can be repaired and rebuilt easily. Fractures in our community cannot be fixed so readily.”

Senior Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs, Dr Maliki Osman remarked “Muslims can help by rejecting any form of violence in the name of Islam, while non-Muslims can correct misconceptions or stereotypical remarks.”

“All travellers coming into Singapore by land, air or sea from June will have their fingerprints taken,” said Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr Desmond Lee. The fingerprint scans will allow the immigration authorities to “verify the traveller’s identity before he is allowed entry into Singapore and will facilitate automated self-clearance during his departure,” said Mr Lee.

**Renewing Our Economy**

Finance Minister Mr Heng Swee Keat recounted that the late Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew liked to ask, “So what does this mean for Singapore and Singaporeans? So, what must we do differently to ensure the success of Singapore and Singaporeans?” The answer, said Mr Heng is, “We need to continue creating value for the world, and for ourselves. We can continue to do this by staying open, innovative and adaptive to change.”

In his speech titled ‘Faster Legs, stronger hearts, wiser minds’, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills), Mr Ong Ye Kung explained, “Many Asian economies are facing headwinds not just because there is slower growth in China, but more because a new division of labour is emerging, and each economy is still finding its footing in the new configuration.”

He further elaborated, “For Singapore, I think we must know the markets around us intimately — traditions, customs, taste, language, habits and psychology. We used to encourage Singaporeans to anchor in Singapore. With a strong anchor planted, it is now necessary to seek our fortunes in the region. The learning curve will be steep. President Tan has warned that “we cannot expect an easy journey ahead”. That is why institutes of higher education are encouraging overseas internships for their students. We must be able to understand, bridge, and operate across different cultures. We must have depth in know-how and skills, so that wherever we go, our expertise is valued.”

“To make the next generation of Singapore’s workers future-ready, Singaporeans should teach their children to do what computers and machines cannot do — and to be masters of machines,” said MP Henry Kwek from Nee Soon GRC.

**Foster a More Caring Society**

A slew of proposed changes to our Central Provident Fund (CPF) open up more retirement options. These include

1. Allowing CPF members to choose their CPF Life plan only when they want to start receiving their payouts from the national annuity scheme, at age 65.
2. Giving members more flexibility to withdraw savings from their CPF retirement accounts without having to pledge their properties.
3. Enhancements to two CPF insurance schemes — the Dependants’ Protection Scheme and the Home Protection Scheme.

Similarly, tweaks to the Women’s Charter underscore the government’s commitment to protect the vulnerable group in our society. Among them are

1. Voiding a marriage of convenience, which is an immigration offence.
2. Allowing women to provide for their current or ex-husband if he becomes incapacitated and cannot work.
3. Making parents going through a divorce attend a mandatory parenting programme to reduce the impact of the divorce on their children.
Senior Minister of State for Transport, Ms Josephine Teo announced that the government is considering speed limits for cycling in parks and park connectors, and a report on this is expected in the second quarter of this year. The report, to be released by the Active Mobility Advisory Panel led by Parliamentary Secretary Assoc. Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, will also include rules and safety guidelines for users of personal mobility devices.

The Minister for Communications and Information, Assoc Prof Dr Yaacob Ibrahim outlined the role of the new Government Technology Organisation (GTO) and Info-communications Media Development Authority (IMDA). “The IMDA will drive further sectoral innovations, and work with the industry and community to develop these shared solutions, while GTO will help the Government to understand and use technology boldly to deliver better public services,” he said.

Mr Ong Ye Kung said, “With a stronger heart, we will develop a more distinct national identity, and strengthen the Singapore soul. That will be our monument for the next 50 years. But our identity is not derived merely by a legal fiat that pronounced everyone ‘Singaporean’. There is richness in the identity, drawn from our diverse ancestry and cultural origins.”

Member of Parliament Ms Joan Pereira commented that more can be done to strengthen social harmony through community bonding, against the backdrop of global extremism, and suggested activities for inter-racial bonding. “Our community centres can organise more activities which require participants of different races to team up and work together over a period of time,” she suggested.

Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong emphasised the five core principles in governing a country, namely ensuring high-quality government, keeping our politics open and contestable, maintaining accountability for the Government, upholding a multiracial society, and instituting suitable stabilisers and checks and balances in the system. He added, “It is not possible for any political system to guarantee a country political stability and prosperity forever. But we can make such a happy outcome more likely if we design our system carefully and correctly around the core principles.”

Mr Ong Ye Kung gave his take on nurturing ‘wiser minds’. He said, “We must continue to emphasise integrity and stand firm against corruption. But we must also exercise judgement and discretion. This is because the world is now too complex to be reduced to rules. Rules are made for Man, not Man for rules. Abiding by rules is part of standard operating procedure, but so too, must be the exercise of judgement.”

The pioneer generation was not left behind. The Pioneer Generation Fund (Amendment) Bill, which proposes that the income or means of a pioneer generation individual — most of whom are aged 67 and above this year — be disregarded when benefits are determined. They include subsidies to healthcare costs. The Finance Ministry said that benefits given to the pioneer generation are meant to ‘honour their contributions and therefore do not vary based on income or means’.

Classrooms in schools under the Ministry of Education (MOE) will be equipped with air purifiers by July 2016 in an effort to deal with the severe haze that could hit Singapore again this year. About 25,000 air purifiers will be installed in classrooms in primary, secondary and special education schools, and in the 15 kindergartens that MOE runs. This will “further enhance the well-being of our students and staff during a haze situation”, Acting Minister for Education (Schools) Ng Chee Meng said in a written reply.
Mentransformasikan Visi menjadi Tindakan

总统陈庆炎博士在2016年1月15日的国会开幕会上表示，虽然新加坡已从第三世界国家迅速跃进成为第一世界国家，但我们不能指望今后的路一帆风顺。我国的基本状况并没有改变，我们必须知道
1. 我们仍然是一个小国，除了人民以外，没有其它天然资源。
2. 我国的经济与亚细安共同体已经越来越紧密。
3. 我们是个土地和劳动力有限的国家。
4. 我们的人口正在老化。到了2030年，四分之一的新加坡人的年龄将超过65岁。
5. 我们的利益和观点正变得更加多样化。

为了确保新加坡在接下来的五十年里仍然是地图上一颗闪亮的小红点，总统陈庆炎博士提出了五项议
1. 首先，政府将继续维持新加坡的安全与稳定；
2. 其次，政府将更新我国的经济；
3. 第三，政府将打造一个更加充满爱心的社会；
4. 第四，政府将改造城市景观；以及
5. 第五，政府将与新加坡人一起建设国家。

在2016年1月25日至29日进行的国会辩论热烈而有建设性，新加入的19名国会议员以及两名非选区议员也发表了他们的第一次演讲。以下是国会议员针对各项动议所提出的观点摘录。

维持新加坡的安全与稳定

国防部兼外交部高级政务部长孟理齐博士说：“如果回教徒能拒绝任何以伊斯兰名义计划的暴力活动，非回教徒也可以纠正其针对回教的错误观念和刻板言论，那将能帮助我国达到这个目标。”

“六月起，所有抵达新加坡的旅客，无论是通过陆路、航空或海陆，都需要让有关当局人员提取指纹。”

更新我国经济

财政部长王瑞杰回忆道：已故建国总理李光耀先生生前喜欢问，“我们必须如何改变做事的方法，才能确保新加坡和新加坡人的成功？” 他强调，关键在于，“我们必须继续为世界创造价值，也为自己创造价值。因此，我们应该保持新加坡的开放、创新和灵活。”

打造更充满爱心的社会

有关公积金（CPF）的一连串改善提案可以为国人开拓更多退休选择，包括
1. 允许公积金会员65岁开始领取年金时，才选择自己要加入哪个公积金终身入息计划
2. 给予成员更多的灵活性，不需要抵押房产就能从公积金退休户头中提出储蓄。
3. 增强两项公积金保险计划 — 保障保障计划和家庭保障计划。

改造城市景观

交通部高级政务部长杨莉明宣布，政府正在考虑在公园和公园通道设定脚踏车车速限制，而相关报告预计将会在今年第二季度出炉。该报告将由义顺集选区议员、政务次长费绍尔副教授领导的活跃通勤部门咨询小组发布。报告内容涵盖用户在使用个人移动设备时应遵守的规则和安全准则。

与新加坡人一起建设国家

教育部长王乙康说：“有了更坚强的核心成分，我们将可以发展出更加鲜明的国民身份认同，强化新加坡精神，这将是我们为未来50年所做贡献。这个国民身份认同不仅仅来自法律上的新加坡国籍，而是来自源于我国各种族文化的鲜明文化特性。

良好的政治和领导

总理李显龙强调，在治理国家时，要遵守五大核心原则，那就是保证政府的高素质、保持我国政治的开放性和竞争性、确保政府负责任、捍卫多元种族社会，以及在现有的体制中建立稳定的相互制衡系统。
Menteri Negara Kanan bagi Pengangkutan, Cik Josephine Teo mengumumkan bahawa pemerintah sedang mempertimbangkan hal kelajuan berbilang kaum dan merancang penstabil yang sesuai serta sekatan yang boleh dipertikaikan, mengekalkan keadaan di mana pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita sentiasa terbuka dan dalam mentadbir sebuah negara, iaitu menjamin sebuah pemerintah yang berkualiti tinggi, memastikan politik kita send...
What your MPs said in Parliament – Summarised in 5 minutes

“Another area that concerns me is an overarching one and that is how we can mobilise our most important and valuable resource in Singapore — our people. How we can mobilise them so we continue this journey, this Singapore story together. How we can mobilise everyone to step forward to volunteer, to serve and to make a difference. If we succeed in this, then this will help in a lot of the issues we will discuss in this house.”

Key Message: While we’ve done well in the past 50 years, it can no longer be business as usual. We cannot run the nation as a business. We need to foster a more caring and engaged society.

1. Singapore’s moral and ethical progress must be on par with her economic progress. Let’s debate the moral, ethics, Singaporean dreams, hopes and aspiration in the House. It cannot just be a numbers game.

2. Relook our attitudes and polices towards parenthood. Promote the positive aspects and stories. Provide parents more opportunities to spend with their kids.

3. Empower Singaporeans to help, volunteer and serve society. Keep initiatives ground-up and let people form their own programmes.

4. Assist lower income families by looking beyond just financial assistance.

5. Approach animal welfare, the environment and climate change as a reflection of society’s progress, as much as sustainability for the future.

“I hope that the government can do even better than before. To do this, we need to look beyond the near term, beyond our individual agency responsibilities, at how we can maximise benefits for the man on the street.”

Key Message: A reminder to build a forward-thinking, citizen-centric government and civil service that understands and works together with Singaporeans to address their aspirations and concerns.

1. Three factors that lead to less-than-ideal results for Government
   a. Not planning for the long-term
   b. Not understanding the issues for the man on the street
   c. Not properly coordinating between ministries and agencies on solutions

2. Three areas that require more dedication and foresight from the Government
   a. Environment — getting our children involved in cleaning to build a sense of responsibility for the environment. Designated Smoking Point scheme could be expanded nationwide.
   b. Housing — estate planning that incorporates essential services and amenities. Providing Singles and Divorcees, especially those with children, with housing earlier.
   c. Economy — Plans to address the poor employment outlook. Government could look into reducing foreign worker quotas for companies that retrench Singaporeans.

“We should prepare our people so they can go beyond Singapore, today or tomorrow, but build a home, and a sense of purpose, so that they will stay.”

Key Message: In our fast changing world, Singapore can stay relevant by growing our future economy, remaking our education system for the new economy and retaining our fighting spirit.

1. Growing our future economy by growing more businesses, especially those with disruptive models and technology.
   a. Translate research into products
   b. Build a world-class funding environment
   c. Help local companies that succeed in crowd-funding
   d. Give more opportunities to local start-ups
   e. Remove unnecessary regulations

2. Teach schoolchildren skills that machines cannot take over, and the basic principles of computer programming, artificial intelligence and big data

3. Retaining our fighting spirit by emphasising the early years of independence in education
Satu lagi perkara yang menjadi keprihatinan saya adalah sesuatu yang menyeluruh iaitu bagaimana kita boleh menggerakkan sumber paling penting dan berharga di Singapura – rakyat kita. Bagaimana kita boleh menggerakkan semua orang untuk ke hadapan, sebagai sukarelawan, untuk berkhidmat dan untuk membuat perbezaan. Jika kita berjaya dalam hal ini, maka ini akan membantu dalam banyak isu-isu yang akan dibincangkan di dalam dewan ini.

Mesej Utama: Walaupun kita telah menunjukkan kemajuan yang baik dalam tempoh 50 tahun yang lalu, ia tidak boleh terus sama seperti biasa. Kita tidak boleh menguruskan negara sebagai sebuah perniagaan. Kita perlu memupuk sebuah masyarakat yang lebih penyayang dan terlibat.

"Saya berharap pemerintah dapat melakukan yang lebih baik lagi daripada sebelumnya. Untuk melakukan itu, kita perlu melihat di luar jangka masa yang terdekat, di luar tanggungjawab agensi kita secara individu, tentang bagaimana kita boleh memaksimumkan manfaat untuk rakyat biasa di luar sana."

Mesej Utama: Satu peringatan untuk membina sebuah pemerintah dan perkhidmatan awam yang berfikiran ke hadapan dan selalu memikirkan tentang rakyat, yang memahami dan bekerja bersama-sama dengan rakyat Singapura untuk menangani aspirasi dan keprihatinan mereka.

"Kita harus mempersiapkan rakyat kita supaya mereka bekerja berdua dengan kita dan menangani permasalahan yang mereka alami."

Mesej Utama: Dalam dunia kita yang cepat berubah, Singapura boleh kekal relevan dengan mengembangkan ekonomi masa depan kita, mencipta semula sistem pendidikan kita untuk ekonomi baru dan mengekalkan semangat juang kita.
The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP) for Blocks 613 to 622, 624 to 631 gained traction on 26 February 2016, at the void deck of Block 625 Yishun Street 61. This was the consensus gathering phase, a build-up from the public consultation phase launched on 28 August last year.

Grassroots Adviser Assoc. Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim unveiled the $4.22 million programme. “NRP seeks to upgrade the estate, bringing it closer to the latest Housing and Development Board developments. Residents can look forward to newer community gardens, drop-off porches, sheltered linkways and parks,” he announced. Assoc. Professor Faishal added, “The facilities will improve the living environment and enhance the value of your flat. NRP is fully paid by the government. This can happen if 75% of the residents vote to support the programme.”

Priscilla, 27, an assistant architect, revealed that when residents requested for more community gardens, her team began the search for suitable locations. They found traces on the ground where residents had grown plants. “The soil quality is good. We set up the garden, installing cabinets for residents to store their gardening tools,” she explained. “This is a natural development, mirroring the planting habits of residents who have been living here,” Priscilla elaborated.

Residents were dazzled by the Tai Chi Tea Art Performance, where Tai Chi moves were performed using a long spout teapot to pour tea. Children were also delighted by magic show and balloon sculpting performances.

Masnoraini, 39, commented that she envisioned that her children will be having fun at the new playground near Block 629. When asked what makes him stay here for over 20 years, Wai Deng, 27, said, “I like it that facilities such as bus stops, coffee shops, polyclinics and NTUC Fairprice are all within walking distance.” The sense of familiarity also counted, as he has known his neighbours for years.

Children usually feel safe around lights. The glow and warmth give them a sense of security, akin to a lighthouse offering glimmers of hope to sailors stranded at sea. The first light-emitting diode (LED) playground has arrived at Yishun Rivergreen, between Blocks 314 and 330 along Yishun Ring Road. The LED are fixed with motion sensors. Children and adults are fascinated by swirls of light changing colours when they step on them. On closer look, the patterns of light look like wood rings! Such playgrounds stimulate the innate curiosity of kids; if they go on to pursue the science behind the sensors, who knows, the next Nobel Prize may come from Singapore!
People of NSTC
Serving You

In Nee Soon Town Council (NSTC), there is a team of dedicated staff who go the extra mile in helping the residents. Together they create a conducive environment to live, work and play. Read their insights on the community they work in!

“I felt accomplished when events were run smoothly. While residents appreciated my effort, they also gave me ‘tips’ on enhancing the event. My colleagues are like my second family. Perhaps that is why this remains my first and best place to work since graduation in 2000!”

Nur Jaz Aleya,
Senior Public Relations Assistant

“I love working at Nee Soon Town Council. Residents here are very nice. When I help them carry bulky items, or press the lift for them, they are appreciative. Some even offer me snacks and drinks. Colleagues are cooperative, coming to my aid whenever I need help.”

Mohammed Hanif,
Cleaner

“I had a Diploma in Ornamental Horticulture and Garden Design. I supervise pruning, fertilising and weeding. Sometimes residents have disputes over branches blocking their views. I explained to them that in principle, we only removed damaged branches. The healthy ones were left alone.”

Steven Lim,
Senior Horticulture Officer

“Residents look for me when there are issues with regards to corridors, void decks and parks. I feel a deep sense of satisfaction whenever I resolve these issues. I know I have done a good job when they smile and thank me!”

Ho Kwang Yong,
Assistant Property Manager
Mr. K. Shanmugam
Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law
MP for Nee Soon GRC
Meet-the-People Sessions
Every Tuesday at 7.30pm (except public holidays and eves of public holidays)
at Block 107 Yishun Ring Road #01-207 Singapore 760107

☎ 6758 3039
✉ k_shanmugam@mlaw.gov.sg
✨ K Shanmugam Sc
 IDX Youtube channel: K Shanmugam
Assoc. Prof. Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and
Ministry of Social and Family Development
MP for Nee Soon GRC
Adviser to Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Sessions
Every Monday at 7.00pm
(except public holidays and eves of public holidays)
at Block 609 Yishun St 61 #01-235 Singapore 760609

6752 2532
muhammad_faishal_ibrahim@msf.gov.sg
muhammad.faishal.ibrahim1
Meet-the-People Sessions
Every Monday at 7.30pm
(except public holidays and eves of public holidays)
at Block 227 Yishun St 21, #01-520
Singapore 760227
6755 1946
louisng4nse@gmail.com
louisngkokkwang
Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah
MP for Nee Soon GRC
Vice Chairperson, Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Sessions
Every Monday at 7.00pm (except public holidays and eves of public holidays)
at Block 850 Yishun St 81 #01-94 Singapore 760850

6759 3413
mp4nss@gmail.com
leebeewahpage
Mr Henry Kwek Hian Chuan
MP for Nee Soon GRC
Vice Chairperson, Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Sessions
Every Tuesday at 7.30pm (except public holidays and eves of public holidays)
At Block 109 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4, #01-04, Singapore 560109

6454 8792
HenryforKebunbaru@gmail.com
Henrykwek
Henrykweksg
Many Singaporeans remember Jamie Yeo, also known as ‘Tammy’ in the popular family drama ‘Growing Up’. Jamie, now a TV and radio presenter, believes in imparting the right values to the next generation. She figured that the best way is to be a role model herself for her five-year-old daughter Aly. When Rebekah Lin, the co-founder of 50 for 50, suggested she spearhead a charity initiative to help needy families, she asked herself, “Why not?” 50 for 50 is a social programme aimed to combine creative minds and ideas to address social problems in Singapore.

“I do not want to wrap my daughter in a bubble,” Jamie asserted. Project Nee Soon Cares was conceived in mid-2015. Jamie played the match-maker with assistance from Chong Pang Community Club. There were a number of families living in rented flats. Under this programme, two families befriended each other. One family provides necessities such as groceries to the other. “It is not as simple as it seems,” she commented. Jamie tried her best in pairing families who have children of similar ages. This way, the children can pass on some of the items such as books or toys to the other family. She observed that interacting with families from different social backgrounds has given Aly a more balanced view of life.

There was one family who nearly moved her to tears. In a family of three, a 17-year-old autistic teenager was taken care of by his grandparents. He was shy and could barely speak. As his grandparents were not educated, they did not send him to special school until Jamie found him. Jamie also discovered that his teeth were decayed as he could not brush his teeth properly. He is now improving with speech therapy at Northlight School. A dentist friend of Jamie also offered free treatment upon learning of the boy’s circumstances. Jamie realised that had the teenager received help earlier, his future would definitely be brighter. “He could at least be self-sufficient, as I have seen autistic kids who are intelligent,” she elaborated.

Encouraging more interaction with the outside world is also a spinoff of Project Nee Soon Cares. When Jamie first met a 13-year-old teenager, he was reticent, making her efforts in striking up a conversation futile. Jamie was undaunted, texting him occasionally to check up on him. “This way, he feels at least there is someone out there who truly cares for him,” she explained. As the teenager has three younger siblings, Jamie tried to make him more responsible by indirectly asking about the welfare of them. All of them were raised solely by their grandmother. One day, while watching television, Jamie discovered that he is a Home United fan. Using her media connection, Home United Football Club actually gave a pair of season passes and a personalised jersey for him! Since then, he becomes less introverted and more sociable.

Today, Jamie has seven families under her supervision. “Many thought that those willing to help are rich; in fact most are self-made individuals who have studied and worked hard most of their lives,” she let on. “They realised that it is time to give back to society in a more meaningful way,” she said. Personally Jamie felt that this was a win-win arrangement as both families benefitted. The friendship forged during such interactions is enduring, and it usually continued for more than a year. Motivated by the positive impact on both families, Jamie has set her sights on expanding her initiative. We wish her success in her heartwarming endeavours!
慈善从家庭做起

许多新加坡人都记得杨薏琳，她曾在流行一时的家庭环境剧“成长岁月”中扮演“塔米”，现任电视和电台主持人。她想给五岁女儿丽安灌输正确的价值观，并觉得最好的方法还是以身作则。当慈善活动50 for 50的创办人Rebekah Lin建议她带头开启一项社区慈善计划，帮助有需要的家庭时，杨薏琳反问自己：“为什么不？”

“我不希望女儿在温室里长大。”杨薏琳强调。因此，她在2015年中启动义顺关怀计划。在忠邦民众俱乐部的协助下，杨薏琳把住在租赁屋的受益人家庭和义工家庭配对起来。两个家庭可以互相扶持，义工家庭也可以为受益人家庭提供日常用品。杨薏琳表示：“其实不只是简单配对而已，我会尽量把有同龄孩子的家庭配在一起。这样一来，孩子的课本或玩具就能共享。”她发现和不同社会背景的孩子接触后，丽安变得更成熟了。

在她帮助过的家庭中，有一户人家让她感动得几乎落泪。他们一家三口人，祖父母照顾患有自闭症的17岁青年。青年十分害羞，几乎不开口。因为祖父母没有受过教育，他们在杨薏琳接触少年之前，并没有把他送到特别学校去接受教育。杨薏琳也发现少年因为不会好好刷牙，所以牙齿已经蛀掉了。如今，少年已经在北烁学校进行语言治疗，取得了不错的进展。杨薏琳一位当牙医的朋友得知了青年的情形后，也义务为青年提供治疗。杨薏琳想到，如果青年当年早点得到帮助，那他的将来会更光明，也许至少能够照顾自己。

义顺关怀计划也成功让其他青年打开心房。另一个受益人家庭的一名15岁少年，原本相当沉默。但是杨薏琳并没有因此而感到气馁，她不时传简讯给他，让他知道有人关心他。他是家中的长子，他和三个弟妹由祖母独自抚养长大，所以杨薏琳就通过询问他三个弟妹的近况，来间接培养他的责任感。有一天在观看电视节目的时候，杨薏琳发现他原来是内政联队的球迷。于是杨薏琳通过她的社交圈，为少年取得了一对内政联队比赛的季度通行证，还有一套印有他名字的球衣！少年从此打开心房，变得更友善。

今天，杨薏琳负责七个受益人家庭。她透露：“许多人会认为，只有富裕的人才愿意帮助他人，其实不然；有许多乐善好施的人都来自白手起家的小康之家。他们意识到取之社会，用之社会的道理，决定以更有意义的方式回馈社会。”她认为这项计划能让双方家庭都获益，建立真诚而长久的友谊。因此，她打算扩展这项计划。在此预祝她成功帮助更多人！