



Congratulations to our resident
Madam Halimah Yacob
 8th President of Singapore
We're honoured to have you in our midst!



Water Conservation Tips

Discover how you can pay less for your water bill by following these tips!

Pg 10-11



Beautiful Mural Art

Murals in Nee Soon connect us to our collective past memories and present living environment through lively illustrations.

Pg 12-13



Turning Her Life Around

Ms Izam recounts how she pulled herself together with help from the Kebun Baru Cares programme.

Pg 19-20



HOW TO STAY EMPLOYABLE

Are you worried about automation taking your job?

Automation is a worldwide trend Singapore cannot avoid. Economic statistics bear this out: While our economy has grown by 2.5% in the second quarter of 2017, unemployment is still growing, projected to reach 2.4% in 2017. While this is much better than many other countries, growing unemployment is always worrying.

MP for Kebun Baru and Vice-Chairman of Nee Soon Town Council, Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry, gave us his take. He said, "This illustrates that our economy is in transition. But with transition also comes job creation, and we need to prepare Singaporeans to take on these jobs."

As a business director and a member of the Government Parliamentary Committee on Finance, Trade and Industry, Mr Kwek keeps a close eye on our economic performance. He acknowledged that technology disruption, increased global competition and geopolitical uncertainty are challenges to Singapore, but insisted that "it isn't all doom and gloom".

He explained, "New growth areas abound. The eldercare

market will boom due to our ageing population. We are rolling out Changi Airport's Terminal 4, and Terminal 5, which will be bigger than Terminals 1, 2 and 3 combined, is in the works. Changi Airport is aiming to double its capacity to 135 million annual passengers by 2025, which is more traffic than what the world's busiest airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, handles today. Tourism will also boost the hospitality industry."

He also pointed out that Singapore is in the heart of the fastest growing region in the world – Southeast Asia. "With our well-educated, multi-cultural workforce and the strength of the Singapore brand, Singapore is well-placed to benefit from this growth."

UPCOMING GROWTH AREAS:



Eldercare



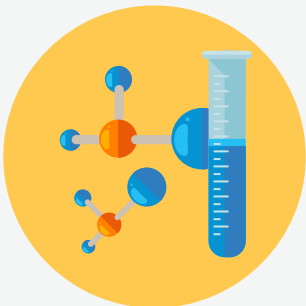
Hospitality



Infocomm technology



Education



Biologics manufacturing



Southeast Asian growth

Mr Henry Kwek outlined five key strategies the government has introduced in order to help all Singaporeans stay employed and move ahead. Read on to learn how you can use them to stay employable.

1



HELP S'POREANS FIND JOBS

“Government is streamlining the national jobs bank to serve people searching for jobs, whether they are young or at the mid-career phase. Employers must list jobs there before applying for EP (Employment Passes), so that Singaporeans get fair consideration for jobs. Government is also penalising companies that do not give fair consideration to Singaporeans,” he said.

He revealed that unlike traditional employment agencies which focus on filling jobs, the government has roped in employment agencies that focus on employees. These agencies have track records of tailoring career paths for each employee and preparing them for those careers.

2



SUBSIDISE TRAINING

Besides the \$500 SkillsFuture credits given to every Singaporean, the government gives extra support for people switching to new occupations or sectors. This encourages Singaporeans to move into sectors where there are ample jobs.

For example, the local retail staff can retrain for the hospitality sector. “When hotels realise that Singaporeans are more productive compared to foreigners, they will start hiring them,” Mr Kwek said.

Other growth industries covered by such programmes include biologics manufacturing and healthcare.

3



WAGE SUPPORT

Middle-aged Singaporean professionals often miss out on opportunities because they ask for a higher wage. The government subsidises up to \$42,000 per person, or 50% of their wages for half a year to a year, to encourage employers to take a chance on them.

“After the first six months, they should have proven their worth, so their employers will continue hiring them even without the government grants. It is a win-win situation,” he elaborated.

4



BEFRIENDING TECHNOLOGY

Mr Kwek cautioned against blaming technology as the cause of unemployment. “With technology, possibilities are limitless. Our workforce, including the younger generation, need to be comfortable with artificial intelligence, robotics and big data analytics. We need to ‘befriend’ technology and work together with it so that we become even more productive.”

5



IGNITING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

He said, “There are of course other programmes for entrepreneurs. I hope that the younger generation can realise their goals by tapping on these. For that to happen, the entrepreneurial spirit must be strong. Our youth must love challenges, and learn to be more resilient in the midst of inevitable changes.”

保持自己的职场价值

哥本峇鲁议员与义顺市镇理事会副主席郭献川指出，科技虽然正在改变全球经济，新加坡人的未来还是充满希望的。

他说：“我国有许多新的经济增长领域。乐龄护理将会因人口老化而蓬勃发展。樟宜机场第四和第五搭客大厦建成后，樟宜的乘客量将超越现在世界最大的机场。此外，游客人数增加也会促进服务业发展。”

他也提醒国人，新加坡位于东南亚的中心，而东南亚是全球经济发展最快速的区域。“凭着高教育水平、多元文化背景的员工，与新加坡品牌的优势，我国必可抓住机遇，趁势而上。”

郭献川说，政府已推行五项政策，协助国人继续受雇，向前迈进。



1

帮助新加坡人寻找工作



2

给予培训津贴



3

工资扶持



4

与科技为友



5

激发创业精神

Cara-cara Untuk Terus Layak Bekerja

Beliau berkata, “Sektor pertumbuhan baru akan bertambah banyak. Sektor penjagaan kesihatan warga emas akan berkembang kerana jumlah penduduk lanjut usia di Singapura semakin meningkat. Pembukaan Terminal 4 di lapangan terbang Changi dan juga Terminal 5, yang mempunyai kawasan lebih besar daripada Terminal 1, 2 and 3 digabungkan, bermaksud aktiviti pelancongan akan meningkat dan industri hospitaliti juga akan berkembang.”

Beliau juga menjelaskan bahawa Singapura terletak di tengah-tengah rantau yang paling pesat berkembang di dunia, iaitu rantau Asia Tenggara. “Singapura terletak di lokasi yang sangat unggul untuk menerima manfaat yang akan datang daripada perkembangan ini, apa lagi dengan tenaga kerja kita yang berpelajaran tinggi dan berganda budaya.”

Encik Kwek menggariskan lima strategi utama yang akan dilaksanakan untuk membantu penduduk Singapura terus layak bekerja dan bergerak maju.



1

Bantu penduduk Singapura cari pekerjaan



2

Biayai program pelatihan



3

Sokongan hal gaji



4

Menggalak pengenalan teknologi



5

Penyalan semangat keusahawanan

வேலையில் நிலைத்திருப்பது எப்படி

தொழில்நுட்பத்தால் உலகமெங்கிலும் பொருளியல் மாற்றமடைந்தாலும், சிங்கப்பூர்கள் கதிகலங்கத் தேவையில்லை என்றார் கெபுன் பாரு நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினரும் நீ சூன் நகர மன்றத்தின் துணைத் தலைவருமான திரு குவெக் ஹியன் சுவான் ஹென்றி.

“வளர்ச்சி அடையக்கூடிய புதிய துறைகள் நிறைய உள்ளன. நமது மக்கள்தொகை மூப்படைவதால் முதியோர் பராமரிப்புச் சந்தை விரிவடையும். சாங்கி விமான நிலையத்தில் நான்காவது, ஐந்தாவது முனையக் கட்டடங்களைக் கட்டுகிறோம். முனையக் கட்டடங்கள் 1, 2, 3 ஆகியவற்றின் மொத்த பரப்பளவைவிட முனையக் கட்டடம் 5 மிகவும் பெரியது. பயணத்துறையால் விருந்தோம்பல் தொழில்துறை பயனடையும்,” என்று அவர் கூறினார்.

உலகிலேயே அதிவேக வளர்ச்சி அடையும் தென்கிழக்காசிய வட்டாரத்தின் மையத்தில் சிங்கப்பூர் அமைந்திருப்பதையும் அவர் சுட்டிக் காட்டினார். “நல்ல கல்வித் தேர்ச்சி பெற்ற நமது பல கலாசார ஊழியர் அணியும், சிங்கப்பூர் என்ற பெயரின் பலமும், இந்த வளர்ச்சியால் சிங்கப்பூர் பயனடைவதற்குத் துணை புரியும்,” என்றும் அவர் சுட்டிக்காட்டினார்.

எல்லா சிங்கப்பூர்களும் வேலையில் நிலைத்திருக்கவும் முன்னேற்றமடையவும் உதவியாக அரசாங்கம் கையாளும் ஐந்து முக்கிய உத்திகளைத் திரு ஹென்றி குவெக் விவரித்தார்.



1

வேலையில் நிலைத்திருப்பது எப்படி



2

பயிற்சி பெறுவதற்கு மானியம்



3

சம்பள ஆதரவு



4

தொழில்நுட்பப் பயன்பாடு



5

தொழில்முனைப்பு உணர்வுக்குத் தூண்டுதல்

HELPING RESIDENTS FIND JOBS



A familiar face in Kebun Baru, 45-year-old Mr Oh Yee Wee is the go-to person for residents seeking financial assistance. As the Chairman of the Kebun Baru Welfare Committee, he has helped many needy families tide through financial difficulties by referring them to the relevant agencies. Recently, he turned to yet another way of helping his neighbours – matching available jobs in the market to them.

He is one of the ten Employability Ambassadors in Kebun Baru who have volunteered to keep unemployed residents informed of upcoming job fairs and labour market information.

Mr Oh explains how it works, “Residents approach us, saying that they need a job. We then link them up to the Employment and Employability Institute (e2i) where they receive advice from employability coaches. They are taught how to write a better résumé, and polish their interview skills. We will also inform them of job fairs.”

Earlier this year, he referred 30 residents to a job fair. More than half were offered jobs on the spot. He revealed that the demand for labour is still high in sectors such as food and beverage (F&B), and retail.



STEP

1

Adaptability

Mr Oh acknowledged that professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs) do have challenges in finding a job, but stressed that these are not insurmountable.

“I have helped a manager in his fifties find another job, six months after his retrenchment. Though he took a pay cut, he was happy as he can continue to support his two children’s education,” Yee Wee said.

“First of all, PMETs should know what they want. There are jobs that no longer exist due to disruptions, so they must accept this reality. If they are reluctant to shift to an alternative job in another sector, this will show up in the interviews. If these PMETs are perceived as unadaptable, employers may be hesitant to hire them,” he elaborated.

STEP

2

Constant Upgrading

He pointed out there are many schemes to help Singaporeans learn new skills and boost their employability. “You can tap on SkillsFuture to upgrade your skills in your chosen sector. The trend nowadays is that we have to be cross-trained in different job functions to stay relevant,” he added.

He also urged job-seekers not to reject short-term contract-based jobs and freelancing. “As long as there is an income at the end of the day, it really does not matter. Sometimes the pay is less than full-time jobs, but that could also mean you work less hours and get more time with your family.”

STEP

3

Anticipate the unexpected

Even for the residents who landed jobs, Mr Oh cautioned against resting on their laurels. “We cannot live in our own world. We must constantly keep a lookout for impending changes, and how best to prepare ourselves for future jobs. We can only help those residents who want to help themselves,” he concluded.

NORTHWEST CDC JOB FAIRS

Northwest CDC is holding a series of job fairs called the North West Career Fair Series. At the first fair in Chong Pang, there were over 1000 jobs to be filled. Do keep a lookout on Northwest CDC’s Facebook if you’re looking for a job!

Also look out for job fairs organised by community clubs in Nee Soon.



帮助居民寻找工作

Membantu penduduk Singapura cari pekerjaan

குடியிருப்பாளர்கள் வேலை தேட உதவி

胡怡煒是哥本峇魯10位就业大使之一。他给正在寻找工作者一些贴士：

1 找对的领域

“饮食和零售业还是相当需要人手的。”

2 尝试不同的工作

“一些工作因经济转型已不复存在，我们必须接受现实。如果你抗拒转行，这将会在口试时显露出来，降低你的就业机会。”

3 不要抗拒短期工作或自由职业

“只要有收入，任何工作都尽量尝试。”

4 学习不同工作岗位的职责

“你可以考‘技能创前程’培训课程提升技能。如今的趋势是学习不同工作岗位的职责，才能符合市场需求。”

Encik Oh Yee Wee adalah salah satu di antara sepuluh duta pekerjaan. Beliau memberi beberapa petua untuk menolong sesiapa yang ingin mencari kerja:

1 Cari pekerjaan dalam sektor yang sesuai

“Sektor makanan dan minuman (F&B) dan sektor runcit memerlukan banyak pekerja.”

2 Bersedia untuk mencuba pekerjaan yang berlainan

“Realiti keadaan sekini adalah banyak pekerjaan tidak wujud lagi kerana telah dihentikan. Kalau kita enggan mengalih pekerjaan kepada sektor yang lain, ia akan muncul pada masa temuduga, dan ini mungkin menghapus peluang kita untuk mendapatkan pekerjaan.”

3 Jangan tolak pekerjaan berasaskan kontrak dan pekerjaan bebas

“Kita harus bersyukur selagi ada pendapatan.”

4 Naiki taraf kemahiran anda buat fungsi pekerjaan yang lain

“Anda dapat mengikuti kursus Skillsfuture untuk meningkatkan kemahiran anda. Kita harus mempunyai latihan yang bersilang supaya tetap bernilai.”

கெபுன் பாருவின் பத்து வேலைத்தகுதி தாதர்களில் ஒருவர் ஓ யீ வீ. வேலை தேடுவோருக்கு அவர் சில குறிப்புகள் தருகிறார்:

1 சரியான துறைகளில் தேடுங்கள்

“உணவு பானத்துறை, சில்லறை வியாபாரத்துறை போன்றவற்றில் தொழிலாளருக்கான தேவை இன்னும் அதிகமாகவே உள்ளது.”

2 வெவ்வேறு வேலைகளைச் செய்துபார்க்க முன்வருங்கள்

“இடையூறுகளின் காரணமாகச் சில வேலைகள் இனிமேல் இருக்காது என்ற உண்மையை நீங்கள் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். வேறொரு துறையில் மற்றொரு வேலைக்கு மாறிச்செல்ல நீங்கள் தயங்கினால், நேர்காணலின்போது உங்கள் தயக்கம் வெளிப்பட்டு, வேலை கிடைக்கும் வாய்ப்பு பாதிக்கப்படும்.”

3 ஒப்பந்தக்கால வேலைகளையும் சுயேச்சை வேலைகளையும் நிராகரிக்காதீர்கள்

“வேலைக்கு வருமானம் கிடைக்கும் என்பதால், இவையெல்லாம் ஒரு பொருட்டல்ல.”

4 வெவ்வேறு வேலைப் பொறுப்புகளைக் கற்றுக் கொள்ளுங்கள்

“நீங்கள் ஸ்கில்ஸ்.பியூச்சர் பயிற்சி உதவி நிதியைப் பயன்படுத்தி உங்கள் திறனை மேம்படுத்திக் கொள்ளலாம். இன்றைய சூழலில் நாம் வேலையில் நீடித்திருக்க, வெவ்வேறு வேலைப் பொறுப்புகளில் பயிற்சி பெற்றிருப்பது அவசியம்.”

PRESCHOOL, DIABETES AND SMART NATION

The 2017 National Day Rally Speech, given by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, indicated several key long-term plans that will boost various sectors of Singapore to the next stage of progress. This year, PM Lee highlighted the importance of education, health and technology as key factors that will be foundational to the future success and well-being of Singapore.

Read on to discover how these policy measures will impact your life in the near future.

PRESCHOOL



“At an early age, there are specific windows in a child’s development. And you must catch that window, or you’ll miss it.” – PM Lee Hsien Loong

Creating more places

- ◆ 40,000 more preschool places in the next five years. This will bring the total number to 200,000.
- ◆ Children aged two months to four years can attend Early Years Centres which will be set up by anchor operators.
- ◆ Children in the Early Years Centres will have a place reserved for them in a nearby MOE Kindergarten when they reach five years of age.

Two MOE Kindergartens in Yishun

- ◆ Over the next five years, MOE will scale up 50 kindergartens for children aged five and six.
- ◆ MOE has since announced that there will be two MOE Kindergartens in Yishun in operation by Jan 2020. A new one will be built at Naval Base Primary School. The MOE Kindergarten now at Blk 318A will be relocated to Huamin Primary School, to offer a seamless transition to primary school.
- ◆ The National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC) will be set up to train preschool teachers and care-givers.
- ◆ Training awards will be provided to ensure a strong start to careers in the preschool sector.



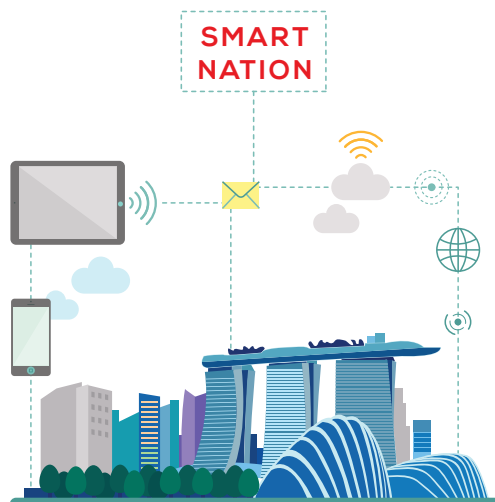
FIGHTING DIABETES

“It is precisely because you are not worried (about diabetes) that I am worried... It has become a serious problem.” – PM Lee Hsien Loong

- ◆ From September 2017, the Ministry of Health will offer health check-ups at S\$5 for Singaporeans above the age of 40. This is a huge mark-down from the usual cost which normally amounts to \$100.
- ◆ All soft drink producers in Singapore have agreed to reduce the sugar level in all drinks sold here.
- ◆ Exercise more, watch your diet and cut down on sugar.

THE DAWN OF A SMART NATION

“Smart Nation is about Singapore taking full advantage of IT. Using IT comprehensively to create new jobs, new business opportunities, to make our economy more productive, to make our lives more convenient.” – PM Lee Hsien Loong



- ◆ Look out for the new mobile app parking.sg in October 2017. A pay-per-use app, it allows users to pay for long they park and has app alerts that will be activated towards the end of the session, which allows motorists to remotely extend their sessions. A refund will be given when the driver decides to end his session ahead of time.
- ◆ IT systems will be further simplified and integrated with banking transactions, public safety and security.
- ◆ Register for PayNow for more convenient cashless transactions.
- ◆ The SkillsFuture and Professional Conversion Programmes will help Singaporeans build up and upgrade their skills.

学前教育、对抗糖尿病与建设智慧国

在国庆群众大会上，李显龙总理列出三项工作重点：

增加幼儿园和托儿所学额

- 政府将在未来5年增加4万个学前教育中心学额。
- 教育部将提升50所幼儿园。年龄5至6岁的孩子将受益。学前教育主要业者可把幼儿学额转换成婴幼儿学额，让更多年龄5岁以下的孩子受惠。
- 教育部公布2020年1月，将会有两所幼儿园在义顺投入运作 - 军港小学和华民小学（该幼儿园从大牌318A搬过来）

- 我国将成立国立幼教学院培训幼教老师和工作者。

对抗糖尿病

- 卫生部宣布，从2017年9月开始，40岁以上的国人只需付5块钱，就可以进行价值约100元的身体健康检查。
- 所有的饮料厂商承诺降低在本地所有含糖饮料的糖份。
- 多运动、注重饮食和减少糖分的摄取。

建设智慧国

- 今年10月，建屋局和市区重建局将推出一个称为PARKING. SG的新应用程序。
- 在银行交易与公共安全等领域，简化并融合资讯科技。
- 注册跨银行转账服务PAYNOW，享受无现金交易的便利。

Pendidikan Prasekolah, Penyakit Kencing Manis dan Negara Bijak

Dalam ucapan di perhimpunan Hari Kebangsaan yang lalu, Perdana Menteri Lee Hsien Loong telah mengenalpastikan tiga jenis bidang di Singapura yang akan diperbaiki pada tahun akan datang.

Lebih tempat prasekolah

- 40,000 tempat prasekolah akan wujud dalam tempoh lima tahun yang akan datang.
- Kementerian Pendidikan akan menambah sebanyak 50 tadika untuk kanak-kanak berumur lima hingga enam tahun. Ini membolehkan pengendali-pengendali utama untuk menukar keupayaan tadika untuk mempunyai lebih tempat buat kanak-kanak di bawah lima tahun.
- Kementerian Pendidikan telah mengumumkan bahawa dua tadika di daerah Yishun akan mula beroperasi pada Januari 2020. Tadika-tadika ini akan terletak di Sekolah Rendah Naval Base dan Sekolah Rendah Huamin, yang telah pindah dari Blok 318A.

- Institut Nasional Pembangunan Awal Kanak-Kanak (NIEC) akan ditubuhkan untuk mempertingkatkan kemahiran guru prasekolah dan penjagaan kanak-kanak.

Melawan Penyakit Kencing Manis

- Mulai bulan September tahun ini, Kementerian Kesihatan akan menawarkan pemeriksaan kesihatan dengan harga \$5 untuk rakyat Singapura yang berumur 40 tahun ke atas. Ini adalah pengurangan yang besar berbanding dengan harga biasa iaitu \$100.
- Penghasil minuman ringan di Singapura setuju untuk kurangkan taraf gula yang terkandung dalam minuman yang dijual.

- Lebih banyak bersenam, kawal diet anda dan kurangkan pengambilan gula.

Permulaan sebuah Negara Bijak

- Nantikan aplikasi mudah alih parking.sg pada bulan Oktober tahun ini.
- Sistem teknologi maklumat akan dipermudahkan lagi dan bersepadu dengan urusan perbank.
- Daftar diri anda untuk pembayaran elektronik PayNow supaya dapat menjalankan pembayaran tanpa tunai dengan mudah.

ஆரம்பகாலப் பள்ளிகள், நீரிழிவு நோய், அறிவார்ந்த தேசம்

சிங்கப்பூர் முக்கிய கவனம் செலுத்தி வரும் மூன்று அம்சங்களைப் பிரதமர் லீ சியன் லூங் தமது தேசிய தினக் கூட்ட உரையில் விவரித்தார்:

ஆரம்பகாலப் பள்ளிகளில் கூடுதல் இடங்கள்

- அடுத்த ஐந்து ஆண்டுகளில் ஆரம்பகாலப் பள்ளிகளில் கூடுதலாக 40,000 இடங்களை அரசாங்கம் உருவாக்கும்.
- ஐந்து, ஆறு வயதுடைய சிறுவர்களுக்காகக் கல்வி அமைச்சு 50 பாலர் பள்ளிகளைத் தொடங்கும். இதன்வழி, பாலர் பள்ளிகளை நடத்திவரும் அமைப்புகள் ஐந்து வயதுக்குக் குறைவான சிறுவர்களுக்கு அதிக இடம் ஒதுக்க முடியும்.
- பிரதமரின் அறிவிப்பைத் தொடர்ந்து, ஈகூனில் நேவல் பேஸ் தொடக்கப் பள்ளியிலும் ஹுவாமின் தொடக்கப் பள்ளியிலும் (புளோக் 318A-ல் இருந்து இடம் மாற்றப்பட்டது) 2020 ஜனவரி மாதத்திற்குள் கல்வி அமைச்சின் இரண்டு பாலர் பள்ளிகள்

செயல்படத் தொடங்கும் என கல்வி அமைச்சு அறிவித்தது.

- ஆரம்பகாலப் பள்ளி ஆசிரியர்களுக்கும் பராமரிப்பாளர்களுக்கும் பயிற்சி அளிக்க இளம்பருவ வளர்ச்சிக்கான தேசிய கல்விக் கழகம் (NIEC) அமைக்கப்படும்.

நீரிழிவு நோயைக் கட்டுப்படுத்தும் முனைப்பு

- செப்டம்பர் 2017 முதல், சுகாதார அமைச்சு 40 வயதுக்கு மேலான சிங்கப்பூரர்களுக்கு S\$5 கட்டணத்தில் சுகாதாரப் பரிசோதனைகள் வழங்கும். வழக்கமான \$100 கட்டணத்தைவிட இது வெகு குறைவு.
- சிங்கப்பூரில் மென்பானம் தயாரிக்கும் நிறுவனங்கள் அனைத்தும், இங்கு விற்பனையாகும் பானங்களில் சீனியின் அளவைக் குறைக்க இணங்கியுள்ளன.

- அதிகமாக உடற்பயிற்சி செய்து, உணவுக் கட்டுப்பாட்டில் கவனம் செலுத்தி, சீனியைக் குறைத்திருங்கள்.

அறிவார்ந்த தேசத்தின் உதயம்

- 2017 அக்டோபர் மாதம் நடப்புக்கு வரும் புதிய “பார்க்கிங்.எஸ்.ஜி” செயலியை எதிர்பார்த்திருங்கள்.
- வங்கிப் பரிவர்த்தனைகள், பொதுமக்களின் பாதுகாப்பு, இடர்காப்பு ஆகியவற்றில் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப இயங்குமுறைகள் மேலும் எளிமையாக்கப்பட்டு ஒருங்கிணைக்கப்படும்.
- ரொக்கமில்லாத வசதியான பரிவர்த்தனைகளுக்கு “PayNow” சேவைக்குப் பதிவு செய்யுங்கள்.



A cushy engineering career did not stop Daniel Ong, 32, from embarking on his musical journey four years ago. His decision to take on the path less trodden proved to be fruitful – he recently bagged the trophy of first runner-up at the Sing! China Singapore Finals. The Yishunite from Acacia Breeze has not looked back since.

Daniel reflected, “It was not an easy decision to quit my job as a software engineer. Back then, I had good colleagues and superiors. I told myself I have to make up for lost time as I started late compared to other musicians.”

Entering Competitions

Daniel revealed that he has liked singing since his secondary school days. His talent got him noticed in Nanyang Technology University (NTU), where he joined the Xing n Strum Club and Jam Band. Together with a hostel roommate who shared his passion, he began entering singing contests. In 2008, they performed a duet that clinched the Vocal Duet Champion at Impresario, a

nationwide talent search competition organised by the NTU Cultural Activities Club. Daniel went on to win first runner-up in Original Composition at Impresario 2013.

“Competitions are good platforms to showcase our talents. Though I may sometimes feel vulnerable on stage, I also receive honest feedback on my performance. This helps me to hone my craft constantly,” he explained.

Multiple Streams of Income

At first, Daniel’s parents were apprehensive about him burning bridges. He put it across humorously, “Quitting a stable job is like hitting the hard reset button. Of course, my parents were worried. Nevertheless, they allowed me to pursue my dreams.”

Daniel was quick to leverage on various platforms to build his income. He joined a live wedding band known as Music Box, and performed at restaurants such as Ikki Izakaya and RedDot

Brewhouse. Wedding hosting introduced some form of security, as couples have to book his time months in advance. “Apart from English and Chinese songs, I learnt to sing in Hokkien, Cantonese, Korean and even Bahasa Indonesia,” he said.

Daniel formed two other bands, Mu Tou Ren and CurryPop. According to him, Mu Tou Ren is geared towards production and creating song identity, while CurryPop is more ‘frontline’, doing cover songs. All his songs are available through Spotify, KKBox and Apple Music. He plans to release his own songs in the future.

Finding His Voice

Ultimately, Daniel wants to empower the people who listen to his songs.

“There are lots of songs in the market about broken relationships and unrequited love. I want to send positive messages through my songs – you can fall out of love, but you do not need to feel like a victim. You don’t need to be perfect,” he said. “Once you are empowered, you learn to take control of your emotions,” he pointed out. “I guess having a comforting voice does help in getting a positive message across,” he smiled shyly.

Home Sweet Home

Home for Daniel is at Acacia Breeze, where he has stayed since August 2015. His eyes light up as he talks about his family, especially his newborn daughter.

“I enjoy the Western food at SAFRA Yishun. I also bring my family to ORTO. So far I think we live in a heartwarming community,” he commented.

Since his win, Daniel has been congratulated by Nee Soon South MP Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah. Daniel reflected, “Dr Lee is an MP who truly cares for her residents.”

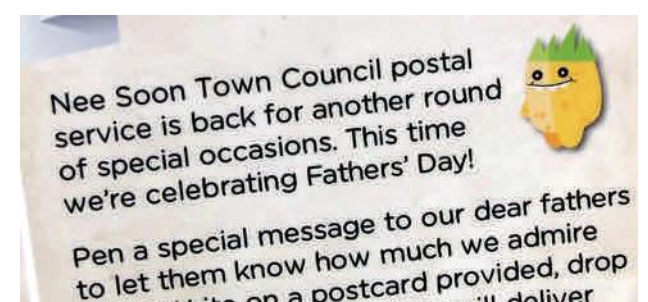
WE LOVE OUR FATHERS!

“Dads hold our hands for a little while but hold our hearts forever.”



We helped children express their love and gratitude to their fathers this June. Residents just had to write their Father’s Day wishes on our specially designed postcards, and we did the rest.

Some kids even won electric shavers for their dads with their heartwarming messages. When we delivered the shavers and cards to their homes, the dads were so surprised and touched! Watch the video at www.facebook.com/neesoon.tc.



Gas Hobs for Needy Families



Needy families in Yishun received gas hobs with timer controls, enabling them to cook healthier and save money. The hobs were sponsored by City Gas, Singapore's piped town gas provider, to beneficiaries identified by Nee Soon Central Constituency Office.

One of the recipients, Stephanie, 50, told us, "Before this, my gas hob was not working for about seven months. After the installation of the new hob, I can boil water and cook noodles for my family. I like the safety features, such as the timer with alarm. This is much safer for my parents, as they sometimes doze off while cooking!"

Stephanie is unable to work as she is the sole caregiver of her parents, who are in their seventies and suffering from ill health. She recalled that she also benefitted from a donated refrigerator in December 2015. Before that, her fridge malfunctioned and she worried her parents' medication could not stay refrigerated. She even had to buy styrofoam boxes from fish farms and fill them with ice cubes.

Stephanie said, "These are just some of the ways the community has helped me. The generous donors and volunteers really make a difference to my family!"

NEW SPACIOUS MULTI-PURPOSE COURT @ KHATIB

Community events and sports will take centre stage at the newly constructed multi-purpose court (MPC) near Blk 838, Yishun Street 21. Located just opposite Khatib MRT station, residents can look forward to a host of programmes, whether rain or shine.

During the opening on 30 July, MP for Nee Soon South Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah announced, "With this MPC, we can do away with setting up tentage for community events. Residents can exercise together and adopt a healthy lifestyle using the facilities."

There are a total of four basketball courts, four badminton courts and two Sepak Takraw courts on the side. Sueraya, 52, said, "We have another venue to do aerobics with our friends at this MPC."

Jay Seah, 29, a basketball player of Nee Soon South Community Sports Club, said, "I have my practice sessions at the court near Blk 213 Yishun Street 21. We may consider coming here to play as it is sheltered."



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Linggiu Reservoir, the reservoir in Johor that supplies water to Singapore, might dry out this year. We cannot take our water supply for granted. Here are some easy tips to make every drop count!

节省用水贴士

提供新加坡食水的柔佛州林桂水坝，可能会在今年干枯。我们不能把食水的供应视作理所当然。这里和你分享如何节省用水小贴士！

Pemuliharaan air

Takungan Johor yang memberi bekalan air kepada Singapura, takungan Linggiu, mungkin menjadi kering pada tahun ini. Kita tidak patut mengambil ringan bahawa bekalan air kita mencukupi. Di bawah adalah beberapa petunjuk untuk memaksimumkan kegunaan air.

தண்ணீரைச் சேமிப்பதற்கான குறிப்புகள்

சிங்கப்பூருக்குத் தண்ணீர் விநியோகிக்கும் ஜோகூரின் லிங்குய் நீர்த்தேக்கம் இவ்வாண்டு வற்றிப் போகக்கூடும். நமது தண்ணீர் விநியோகம் எப்போதும் நீடித்திருக்கும் என்று எண்ணி நாம் மெத்தனமாக இருக்க முடியாது. ஒவ்வொரு சொட்டு நீருக்கும் முக்கியத்துவம் அளித்து தண்ணீரைச் சேமிக்க உதவும் சில எளிய குறிப்புகள் இங்கு தரப்பட்டுள்ளன!



Keep Track of Your Water Bills

Being aware of the problem is the first step towards finding the solution. If your family's water usage constantly remains higher than the national average shown on your bill, it is time to re-examine your water usage habits.

监控你的水费单

知道问题的存在是寻找解决方案的第一步。如果你的家庭用水量持续比全国平均还高，是时候检讨自己用水的习惯。

Kawal bil air anda

Kesedaran tentang sebuah masalah adalah langkah pertama ke arah penyelesaiannya. Jika kegunaan air keluarga anda sering melebihi purata nasional, kini adalah masa terbaik untuk bertukar tabiat keluarga bersama-sama.

உங்களது தண்ணீர்க் கட்டணத்தைக் கண்காணித்திடுங்கள்

பிரச்சனையை அறிவதே தீர்வுக்கான முதற்படி. உங்கள் குடும்பத்தின் தண்ணீர் பயன்பாடு எப்போதும் தேசிய சராசரியைவிட அதிகமாக இருப்பதாகக் கட்டணச்சீட்டில் காட்டப்பட்டிருந்தால், உங்களது தண்ணீர் பயன்பாட்டுப் பழக்கங்களை மறுஆய்வு செய்வது அவசியம்.

Take shorter showers

You may be surprised to learn that you can save up to 45 litres of water by reducing the length of a shower by just five minutes.

缩短淋浴时间

缩短淋浴时间5分钟，你可节省45公升的水。

Kurangkan masa mandi anda

Sebanyak 45 liter air boleh diijimatkan jika anda kurangkan masa mandian anda dengan lima minit.

குளிக்கும் நேரத்தைக் குறைத்திடுங்கள்

குளிக்கும் நேரத்தை வெறும் ஐந்து நிமிடங்கள் குறைத்தாலே 45 லிட்டர் வரை தண்ணீர் சேமிக்க முடியும் என்பது உங்களுக்கு ஆச்சரியமளிக்கலாம்.

Use a filled sink

Instead of keeping the tap running while washing your vegetables and dishes, try washing them in a filled sink. Doing this will shave off another 28 litres of water from your water usage.

用充满水的水槽

与其让水龙头的水一直流着，不如在充满水的水槽内洗菜。这样可省下28公升的水，何乐而不为。

Gunakan sink dapur yang dipenuhi air apabila mencuci

Isikan sink dapur anda sepenuhnya dan gunakan air yang ditakung apabila mencuci pinggan atau sayur-sayuran. Langkah ini dapat mengurangkan penggunaan air anda sebanyak 28 liter.

நீர்த்தொட்டியில் தண்ணீர் நிரப்பி பயன்படுத்துங்கள்

காய்கறிகளையும் பாத்திரங்களையும் கழுவும்போது குழாயில் தண்ணீரை ஓடவிடாமல், நீர்த்தொட்டியில் தண்ணீர் நிரப்பி அதில் கழுவங்கள். இவ்வாறு செய்யும்போது உங்கள் தண்ணீர் பயன்பாடு மேலும் 28 லிட்டர் குறையும்.

4

Maximise your washing machine

You are under-utilising your washing machine if you do not run it at full load.

充分利用你的洗衣机

洗衣机满载运行，才能避免浪费水。

Maksimalkan mesin cuci anda

Kegunaan mesin cuci akan dimaksimalkan jika anda mencuci dengan muatan penuh.

சலவை இயந்திரத்தில் துணிகளை நிறைத்து துவையுங்கள்

சலவை இயந்திரத்தில் துணிகளை நிறைத்து துவைக்காவிட்டால் தண்ணீர் வீணாகும்.

5

Calibrate your flush

For liquid waste, use a half flush instead of a full flush.

谨慎选择满水和半水排水的功能

如果在马桶里是液体废物，可用半水排水功能。

Tentukan curahan di tandas anda

Gunakan curahan yang setengah apabila membuang sisa-sisa cecair.

நீரோட்டத்தைக் கட்டுப்படுத்துங்கள்

சிறுநீர் கழிக்கும்போது, முழு நீரோட்டத்திற்குப் பதிலாக அரை நீரோட்டத்தைப் பயன்படுத்துங்கள்.

6

Fix leaking pipes immediately

Apart from draining precious water away, leaking and dripping taps can generate a substantial increase in your utility bill.

马上维修漏水的水管

除了使宝贵的水白白流失，漏水和滴水的水龙头会使你的水费上涨。

Baikilah paip bocor di rumah anda secepat mungkin

Paip yang sentiasa menitis air akan menyebabkan bil air anda meningkat.

ஒழுக்கும் குழாய்களை உடனடியாகப் பழுதுபார்த்திடுங்கள்

அரிய வளமான தண்ணீர் வீணாவதோடு, ஒழுக்கும் குழாய்களால் உங்களது பயனிட்டுக் கட்டணமும் குறிப்பிடத்தக்க அளவு அதிகரிக்கும்.

7

Reuse water

Water used by the washing machine for rinsing can be reused to mop the floor. In addition, water used for washing the rice can be set aside to water the plants.

重新使用水

洗衣机排出的水可用来抹地板。洗米的水也可浇植物。

Edar semula air yang telah dipakai

Air yang dikeluarkan mesin cuci boleh dipakai untuk mencuci lantai rumah anda. Air yang digunakan untuk mencuci beras juga boleh digunakan semula sebagai sumber air tanaman anda.

தண்ணீரை மறுபயனீடு செய்யுங்கள்

சலவை இயந்திரம் துணிகளை அலசுவதற்குப் பயன்படுத்திய தண்ணீரைக் கொண்டு தரையைத் துடைக்கலாம். அதோடு, அரிசியைக் கழுவுவதற்குப் பயன்படுத்திய தண்ணீரைக் கொண்டு செடிகளுக்குத் தண்ணீர் ஊற்றலாம்.

NEE SOON SOUTH WATER-SAVING CONTEST

Water-saving can be fun, especially with encouragement from your neighbours. Nee Soon South has launched its second Water-Saving Challenge on the 4th of June.

This year, the contest focuses on reducing water bills. The 100 families that can reduce their water bills the most will win attractive prizes. Contact Nee Soon South Community Club for more details.

MP for Nee Soon South Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah said, "As Singapore has limited resources and relies on external sources for water, everyone has a part to play in conserving and treasuring water. Together, we can make Singapore Clean, Blue and Green."



Nee Soon's Mural Art Chronicles Its Past and Present

Every community has a story to tell. In Nee Soon, we pay tribute to our collective past through various murals in the neighbourhood. They not only beautify our surroundings but also remind us of our heritage every time we walk past.



Mural at Caltex Chong Pang

The mural depicts Chong Pang's past, present and future – from a kampong to a modern estate. The tiles paving the centerpiece bear signatures from local residents, signifying that the residents are the heart of Chong Pang. The mural artists are Samantha Chiang and Angella Yuen.



Heartbeat@Fourth Ave (Mayflower Market)

This mural, known as Heartbeat@Fourth Ave, was completed by Ang Mo Kio Primary School students. It features iconic landmarks such as the bird-singing club and semi-terraced houses. This piece of art encapsulates the beauty and vibrancy of Kebun Baru.



'To Go To Kebun Baru' Mural at Mayflower Market

Singapore literature is depicted visually on the walls of Mayflower Market, specifically "To Go to Kebun Baru", adapted from local poet Alvin Pang's poem "To Go to S'pore". The black and white mural was co-created by local artist Fish Jaafar and local residents.



Memories of Nee Soon

Over 1,000 photos of residents form a collage of residents playing blindman's bluff in the carpark. This mural at Blk 750 Yishun Street 72 was created by the residents, led by artists Janus Tan and Jamie Hong. It is a nostalgic reminder of simple kampong games.

Commemorating Lee Teck Public School

This 3D mural at Blk 776 Yishun Ave 2 commemorates the Lee Teck Public School, a kampong school that once stood in Chye Kay village in the Sembawang area. The school had its humble beginnings back then, relying solely on villagers' donations and school fees for its cost of operation. In 1977, residents were resettled from the village into Yishun. The past and present seem to merge as you mount a bicycle in front of the mural. Take a picture and post it on Facebook for a nostalgic effect!



Map of Our Neighbours

Few people realise that teamwork can do what an individual cannot. In just ten hours, architectural manager Gilbert Cher and his landscape architect wife Hoo Xin Yu rallied a hundred residents to complete this mural. This mural at Adora Green estate (Blk 347A Yishun Avenue 11) is a lively map of the neighbourhood, which includes vibrantly painted flowers, kites, the nearby park and pond, and wildlife.



Our Community

A joint effort by the school and the Nee Soon Community, the ceramic mural at Naval Base Secondary School portrays the rich physical and natural landscape of Yishun during the day and night. As with all mural art in Nee Soon, it reminds us of Nee Soon's cultural diversity and the importance of mutual respect and renewed dialogue amongst cultures in our ever-changing society.





#OneNationTogether

CHONG PANG

Minister K. Shanmugam



Residents turned out in droves to celebrate Singapore's 52nd birthday together with the MPs of Nee Soon GRC. This year's theme, #OneNationTogether, highlights the bonding we have built over the years in a multi-cultural society. United as a nation to tackle challenges head-on, we are confident to bring Singapore's prosperity to greater heights!

NEE SOON CENTRAL

Assoc. Prof. Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim



NEE SOON EAST

Louis Ng



NEE SOON SOUTH

Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah



KEBUN BARU

Henry Kwek



NDP Tickets for Residents

Three lucky families won NDP tickets, simply by submitting photos of themselves with our 3D photo backdrops.

The photo backdrops, which made residents look like they were part of iconic local scenes, were located in front of Yishun MRT, at Khatib Plaza, Chong Pang Amphitheatre, Mayflower Mall and in front of the town council office at 290 Yishun Street 22.

Three lucky families won a pair of NDP tickets each. The tickets were presented by our Chairman Louis Ng, adding yet another precious memory to their National Day experience!



ARTS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Arts in Your Neighbourhood (AYN) is a programme by the National Arts Council that brings enriching arts experiences to everyone's doorstep. Happening in March and November each year, AYN consists of quality interactive arts programmes by established artists and arts groups, held at various spaces across the island.

The Nursery Rhymes Project:

Imagine Our Songs by The Theatre Practice

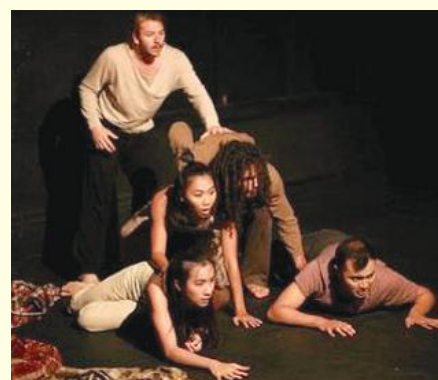
12 Nov (Sunday), 5.00pm, Chong Pang Amphitheatre
Admission is free



Be enchanted by captivating stories and memorable tunes in this fun and engaging re-invention of classic children's nursery rhymes such as "The Little White Boat" and "When We Were Together"! This play brings together short stories written by Mandopop lyricist Xiaohan and music arrangements by local leading musician Julian Wong.

Twine: Interweaving Stories of a Community *by Bhumi Collective*

12 Nov (Sunday), 7.00pm, Chong Pang Amphitheatre
Admission is free



Discover the intriguing stories of people behind the creation of traditional textiles! This interactive dance explores how communal effort and personal experiences weave together and intertwine in the making of a cloth.

AYN is presenting 55 activities in various other locations such as Woodlands Civic Centre, Westgate, Canopy@J-Link, and Ang Mo Kio Central Stage. For the full schedule and location details of Arts in Your Neighbourhood programmes, visit artsforall.sg/AYN.



I Found A Job!



Feeling overwhelmed in your job search? Looking for a career switch?
Visit the Workforce Singapore Careers Connect for assistance and to find out
how the Adapt and Grow initiatives can support you in your career journey.



Ken Chia

Supported by

Career Support Programme

"My 20 years of experience in electronics operations was certainly a crucial factor in convincing my current employer to hire me, and the wage support offered by the Career Support Programme helped me to secure the job. During my job search, I kept telling myself 'Don't give up. My family is behind me'. But I must say that the most important lesson I learnt during this period is to be open-minded and tap on the Adapt and Grow initiatives to assist in my job search."



Learn more about Career Support Programme at bit.ly/csp-nstc or visit Careers Connect at bit.ly/cms-nstc for advice

Benefitted from

Career Matching Services

"I've always had a passion for social work but my parents wanted me to have a 'normal' job as they had the impression that social work does not pay well. It wasn't easy to convince employers to hire me as I did not have any relevant qualifications or experience. With the guidance from my Career Coach at Careers Connect, I had my résumé refined and gained better knowledge on how I could market my strengths. We also discussed about my career options and progression within the social service sector. I feel really blessed to be able to take on a new role that I am truly passionate about. I know it will be a lot more gratifying to have a career which I have a passion in. There will always be that inner drive to motivate me to go further."



Lynette Liew



Kwok Ling Ling

"My former colleagues in human resources would never have imagined me in the healthcare industry. I guess you could say that I've moved from 'caring' for individuals in their careers to caring for their physical, emotional and psychosocial well-being. All thanks to my career coach, Mr Wong Chee Leong who shared with me about the sector, the roles and therapy aid courses so that I could make an informed decision. He even helped me with the application for funding support for my course and continued to encourage me after our coaching sessions were completed. With his encouragement and guidance, and the funding support, I made the switch at age 55."



If you need career guidance or advice, visit Careers Connect at bit.ly/cms-nstc or call 6883 5885 for an appointment to meet a career coach

Workforce Singapore Hotline: **6883 5885**

www.wsg.gov.sg



facebook.com/WorkforceSingapore



[@workforcesg](https://twitter.com/workforcesg)

 **Adapt
& Grow**

People of Nee Soon

We stopped residents on the street and asked for their views on living in Nee Soon GRC. You may find yourself nodding in agreement!



“ I grew up in Yishun, then shifted out once before deciding to return here, mainly because of the strong kampong spirit and the greenery. I feel that compared to other estates, Yishun is still quite spacious – I feel I can breathe more easily. MP Lee Bee Wah also walks the talk and the facilities have improved tremendously under her supervision.

Mrs Kua, 48

“ I have been living in Yishun for three years. I like the clean and peaceful environment.

Alex Liew, 29



“

Yishun has been my home since 1985. Yishun and Khatib MRT stations have helped to make this a bustling town. Yishun MRT station has been well planned but road access to Khatib MRT Station could be improved.

Anilan, 54



“

During my 32 years of living here, I have witnessed significant transformations. Initially, there was no MRT, few buses and the bus interchange was along the roadside, at Yishun Avenue 5. Now we have an improved transport system and shopping centres.

It's a close-knit community too – I even leave my house keys with my Chinese neighbour when I go out. That's why my daughter chose to keep living in Yishun even after her marriage. And I guess I'll stay here till my very last day!

Kamsin Mopit, 60



Congratulations!

National Day Award 2017

THE PUBLIC SERVICE STAR (BBM)

Foo Chee Kiou
Chairman, Chong Pang Zone 6 RC

THE PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL (PBM)

Mr Lim Chin Keong
Vice-Chairman, Chong Pang CC SCEC

Mr Ong Peng Eu
Chairman, Nee Soon Central Zone 8 RC

Mr Peh Eng Chee
Chairman, Yishun River Green RC

Ms Goh Poh Hwee
Chairperson, Kebun Baru Spring RC

Mr Siah Boh Sing
Vice-Chairman, Nee Soon Central Zone 4 RC

Mr Narayanan s/o Sankunni Nair
Immediate Past Chairman, Nee Soon South Zone D RC

Mr Oh Yee Wee
Assistant Secretary, Kebun Baru CCMC

Mr Steven Pang Yap Chung
Patron, Nee Soon East CCC

Mr Toh Boon Teck
Immediate Past Chairman, Nee Soon South Zone C RC

Happy Deepavali!



NANAS & squish

Do you know that wet laundry takes longer to dry out? Clothes that are not fully wrung out before hanging out to dry can also smell odd after a while!

And isn't it annoying to have wet clothes drip on you as you walk along the void decks and corridors?

Let's be courteous to our friends and neighbours! Make sure you've thoroughly squeezed out all excess water before hanging out laundry to dry!

Nanas, aren't those clothes still soaking wet and heavy?

So what?

Hey! Hold steady, Squi-WHOOPS!

CLANG!

Oh just be quiet you...

You know you're going to have to wash them all over again, right?

CHONG PANG



Mr. K. Shanmugam

Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law
MP for Nee Soon GRC
Adviser to Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Sessions

Every Tuesday at 7.30pm (except public holidays & eves of public holidays)
at Block 107 Yishun Ring Road #01-207 Singapore 760107
Tel: 6758 3039 Email: k_shanmugam@mlaw.gov.sg
Facebook: K Shanmugam Sc
Youtube: K Shanmugam

NEE SOON EAST



Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang

MP for Nee Soon GRC
Chairman, Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Sessions

First four Mondays of the month, 7.30pm to 9pm
(Except the eves of / and a public holiday)
at Block 227 Yishun St 21, #01-520 Singapore 760227
Tel: 6755 1946 Email: louisng4nse@gmail.com
Facebook: louisngkokkwang

KEBUN BARU



Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry

MP for Nee Soon GRC
Vice-Chairperson,
Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Sessions

Every Tuesday at 7.30pm
(except public holidays & eves of public holidays)
at Block 109 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4, #01-14 Singapore 560109
Tel: 6454 8792 Email: HenryforKebunbaru@gmail.com
Facebook: Henrykwek

NEE SOON CENTRAL



Assoc. Prof. Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim

Senior 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 & eves of public holidays)
at Block 609 Yishun St 61 #01-235 Singapore 760609
Tel: 6752 2532 Email: muhammad_faishal_ibrahim@msf.gov.sg
Facebook: muhammad.faishal.ibrahim1

NEE SOON SOUTH



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 & eves of public holidays)
at Block 850 Yishun St 81 #01-94 Singapore 760850
Tel: 6759 3413 Email: mp4nss@gmail.com
Facebook: leebewahpage

LOCATE US

Yishun
Blk 290 Yishun St 22, S(760290)

Nee Soon Central
Blk 751 Yishun St 72, #01-186, S(760751)

Nee Soon South
Blk 845 Yishun St 81, #02-00, S(760845)

Kebun Baru
Blk 161 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4, #01-500, S(560161)



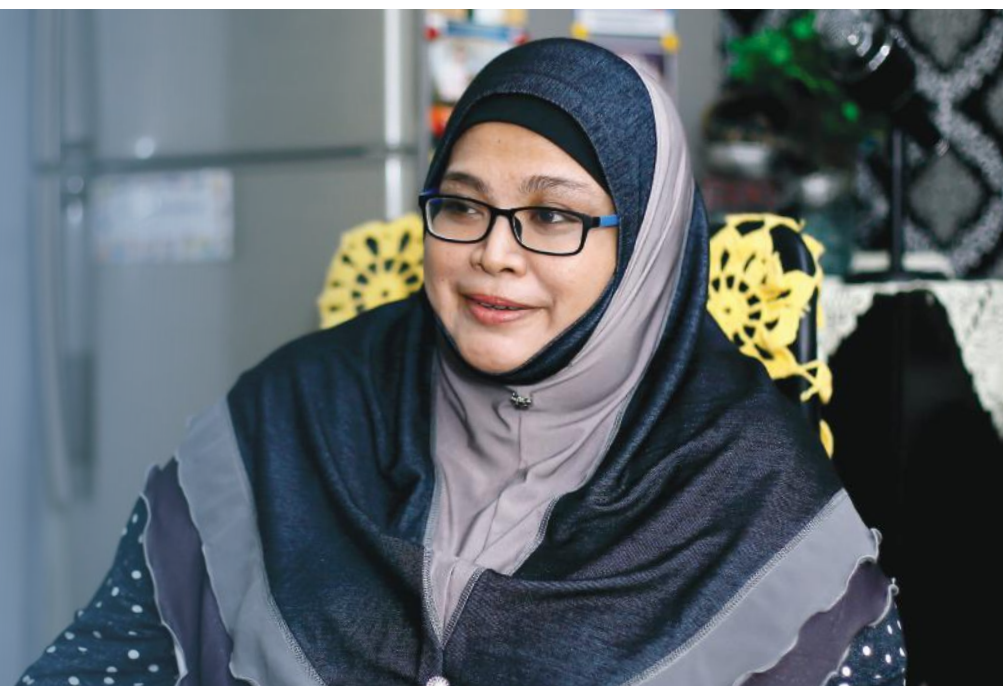
Essential Maintenance Service (EMSU)
after office hours:
1800 275 5555
1800 241 7711 (Kebun Baru)



**NEE SOON
TOWN COUNCIL**

Tel:
6758 0129
Email:
feedback@nstc.org.sg
Facebook:
Nee Soon Town Council
SMS/MMS:
9110 9877

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY



Life was an uphill struggle for 46-year-old single mother Izam Zamah before she joined the Kebun Baru Cares programme. She confided, “In the past, I would run out of money within the first two weeks of every month.”

“But after attending the financial management workshop arranged by the programme, I have managed to save so much more and even have a ‘surplus’ at the end of the month,” she said.

“The trainer made us realise the difference between needs and wants. So I cut down on my spending on unnecessary items, such as fast food and clothing. Nowadays I only buy what I need for my family,” Izam reflected.

Kebun Baru Cares is a 10-month long programme that supports underprivileged families like Izam’s. It includes workshops on financial management, social well-being, healthcare and parenting. The programme volunteers also helped families find good childcare and tuition for their kids, and offered jobs and retraining advice.

A Series of Misfortunes

Izam recounted how she got into dire financial straits. When her marriage fell apart in 2014, she became the sole caretaker to her three children and her elderly mother Salmah Kawana. Compounded by her mother’s deteriorating health, Izam had no choice but to be a full-time caregiver. This meant that she could not work at all, and had to survive on financial assistance from the government and community.

“My mother has had heart attacks before. Now she suffers from heart failure, and has chronic breathing problems as well. When she is sleeping, she needs to use a machine to sustain her breathing. As she has a weak heart, I also have to ensure she only takes four glasses of water per day,” Izam revealed.

“I think it is my duty to take care of her now. After all, she used to take on three jobs to bring us up – cleaning office in the morning, washing clothes in the afternoon and going to the factory to work at night,” she recalls.



Doing crafts gives Izam enjoyment and even some extra income.

Emotional and Financial Support

Izam says she learnt a lot through the Kebun Baru Cares programme. Through the parenting programme, she learnt not to push her children too hard, which has helped improve her relationship with her children. Nutrition-wise, they advised her to avoid taking too much salt and oil. Izam had also followed their tip on socialising – mingling with other participants to keep depression at bay. She even learnt to paint mosaics, and sell them to earn some income.

Now, her sons have become a source of pride. Zulkiflee, her younger son, now in primary three, received a bursary due to his good results, while his elder brother Fadzhil finds meaning



Izam helping other rental flat residents by giving them donated clothes.

in grassroots volunteering. Thanks to the programme, she can better support them to do well in life and break the cycle of poverty.

Braving Challenges Together

Through the programme, Izam also made friends with single mothers in similar situations. Now, she is much more confident and optimistic. When the Kebun Baru Cares programme started again, Izam became a mentor.

“I feel I am able to help single mothers as I have gone through the same journey as them – the pain, uncertainty and helplessness. The Kebun Baru Cares programme can give them renewed hope in life, just as it did for me.”



MENGHAPUS PUTARAN KEMISKINAN



Ibu tunggal Cik Izam Zamah, 46 tahun, menghadapi kehidupan yang sukar sebelum beliau menjadi anggota program Kebun Baru Cares. “Wang yang saya dapat sering habis setiap setengah bulan,” beliau berkata.

“Tetapi selepas saya menghadiri bengkel pengurusan wang yang diadakan oleh program ini, saya dapat menjimat lebih banyak wang, dan akan mempunyai wang lebihan pada akhir bulan.”

“Jurulatih kursus ini membuat kami sedar perbezaan antara keperluan dan kemahuan. Saya kurangkan perbelanjaan saya buat barang-barang yang saya tidak perlu seperti makanan segera dan pakaian. Kini, saya hanya membeli apa yang saya perlukan untuk keluarga saya,” Cik Izam berkata.

Kebun Baru Cares adalah program sejarak 10 bulan yang menolong keluarga-keluarga kurang bernasib baik, seperti keluarga Cik Izam. Ia termasuk bengkel di mana peserta akan belajar tentang pengurusan wang, kesejahteraan hubungan sosial, penjagaan kesihatan dan hal keibubapaan. Sukarelawan terbabit dengan program ini akan menolong ibu bapa mencari perkhidmatan penjagaan kanak-kanak dan tuisyen, dan juga peluang pekerjaan dan nasihat tentang latihan kerja.

Siri nasib malang

Cik Izam bercerita tentang bagaimana beliau mula diperangkap dalam situasi kewangan yang sangat teruk. Selepas rumahtangga beliau hancur pada tahun 2014, Cik Izam menjadi satu-satunya penjaga kepada tiga orang anak dan ibunya Cik Salmah Kawana. Kesihatan Cik Salmah yang semakin memburuk memaksa Cik Izam menjadi penjaga sepenuh masa. Akibatnya beliau tidak dapat bekerja dan harus bergantung harap kepada tunjangan diberi oleh pemerintah dan masyarakat.

“Ibu saya pernah ada serangan jantung. Beliau kini mengalami kegagalan jantung dan masalah pernafasan yang kronik, sehingga harus

mengguna mesin untuk menanggung nafasnya semasa beliau tidur. Saya harus pastikan beliau minum empat gelas air sahaja setiap hari, kerana jantungnya sangat lemah,” Cik Izam berkongsi.

“Memang kewajipan saya untuk menjaga ibu saya. Beliau mempunyai tiga jenis pekerjaan pada masa dahulu untuk membela kami sekeluarga. Beliau bekerja sebagai pembersih pejabat pada waktu pagi, pembasuh pakaian pada siang hari, dan bekerja kilang pada waktu malam,” Cik Izam berkata.

Sokongan Pertolongan kewangan dan sokongan emosi

Cik Izam berkata bahawa pengetahuannya telah bertambah melalui program Kebun Baru Cares. Perhubungan antara beliau dan anak-anaknya telah bertambah baik selepas menghadiri bengkel keibubapaan. Beliau sedar bahawa tekanan terhadap anak-anaknya patut dikurangkan. Anak-anaknya pula kini sering menasihati Cik Izam supaya kurangkan mengambil makanan yang terlalu masin dan berminyak. Cik Izam juga kini mengikut petua mereka untuk bercampur gaul dengan peserta yang lain untuk mengurus kemurungannya.

Cik Izam bangga dengan pencapaian anak-anak lelakinya. Anak lelaki bongsunya Zulkiflee yang kini di darjah tiga telah diberi biasiswa kerana mempunyai markah yang baik. Abangnya Fadzhil berminat menjadi sukarelawan akar umbi. Program Kebun Baru Cares telah memberi Cik Izam banyak peluang untuk terus menyokong anak-anaknya hingga kejayaan dan menghapus putaran kemiskinan mereka.

Bersama-sama berani menghadapi cabaran

Cik Izam telah membuat kawan bersama ramai ibu tunggal yang lain melalui program Kebun Baru Cares. Kini, beliau menjadi seorang yang lebih yakin dan optimistik. Apabila program Kebun Baru Cares dibuka semula, Cik Izam akan menjadi mentor.

“Saya yakin bahawa saya boleh tolong ibu tunggal yang lain kerana saya pernah mengalami perjalanan yang sama. Kami pernah mengalami keperitan, keraguan, dan keadaan yang tidak berdaya. Program ini dapat memperbaharui harapan terhadap kehidupan, seperti yang pernah saya alami.”

