



THE PALM

Newsletter – October 2020 Issue

THE PALM

Quarterly Newsletter

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WELCOME NOTE

Dear Members and Supporters of PSP,

This year has been pivotal for development of our political institutions in Singapore. When we started our journey in March 2019, I knew that we had a colossal task ahead of us. Our members, however, have proven that nothing is insurmountable, and with determination, we've made inroads into the House.

We now have two representatives in Parliament and they are bringing to the House important issues from the ground, civic groups and PSP grassroots organisations. It is important that we keep up the momentum.



Mr Lee Hsien Yang at one of the walkabouts during our recent General Elections held in July.

WE MARCH ON TOWARDS 2025

There are also other important tasks such as building a strong grassroots, understanding the issues of the youth and women and having the finger on the pulse.

I have asked some of our members to step up to prepare ourselves for the next General Elections in 2025. You'll get some insights into what we're doing in this issue. Join our events, keep abreast of the political developments in Singapore and happy reading!

Dr. Tan Cheng Bock

I HAVE PUT IN PLACE A VERY CAPABLE AND EFFECTIVE TEAM TO RUN THE GROUND-OPS AND WE ARE SETTING UP GRASSROOTS IN OUR BRANCHES



Mr. Francis Yuen, Assistant Secretary General

by Kumaran Pillai

Francis Yuen, the newly appointed Assistant Secretary General speaks about his journey into politics and why it is important for us to be part of the sea-change in politics in Singapore.

His current task at hand is to reorganize the party and to be ready for the next general elections which are not due until 2025. He outlines the strategy going forward, of walking the ground, engaging voters and attracting new political talent into the party. He has a good feel for the ground, after making a debut in politics in the recent elections.

I sat down with him at Kofi Kaki at AMK hub over a cup of kopi-C-kosong. And here's what he has got to say:

Francis, let's start off with a question of Why? Tell me about your personal journey into politics - why did you join politics and why now?

It was an evolutionary process and I wouldn't have thought about joining politics three years ago when I was still busy with my career. Although I'm retired from full-time employment, I still keep myself busy and am involved in a lot of companies with many overseas trips that come with it.

Some of my ex-colleagues, friends and university classmates feel that something is amiss in this country - we are growing economically, we are well-to-do,

prosperous, and we have gleaming skylines with beautiful buildings but, inequality is creeping in and it is no longer a level playing field. I want to see the country continue to not just prosper, but for all Singaporeans of every strata to prosper and realise the fruits of Singapore's prosperity.

So all it took was a little spark for me to enter politics. This happened during the PSP launch last year. When Dr Tan Cheng Bock broke down during his speech, I saw him so emotional and full of dedication and commitment to his cause. It made me realise that this was where I wanted to be, standing next to him, shoulder to shoulder and working towards a better Singapore for our future generations.

So you've garnered a respectable 41.3% in the General Elections. What could you have done more to cross the line? More time perhaps? Or better execution of the campaign?

More time for sure and the fact remains that we were locked down during phase one of COVID-19 restrictions. So, we could only use online platforms to conduct our outreach to the electorate, which also meant that we were not able to reach a segment of our voters and we had a very short runway to get our message across.

Our message of accountability resonated with the younger voters but it was difficult to reach the pioneer generation voters who were not online and it was equally difficult to reach those living in condominiums as we had limited or no access to their homes. Our plan going forward is to do more ground outreach and door-to-door house visits – to feel the pulse of Singapore first hand, reach out to them and understand their challenges and problems better.

The PAP saw a downswing of almost 9 per cent. In your opinion, what contributed to this downswing?

In my opinion there are three main reasons for this.

Firstly, the incumbent thought that there would be a voter flight-to-safety because of the current health and economic crises. However, that didn't happen. On the contrary, people were really upset with them for calling the elections during the pandemic, which translated to PAP putting politics above life and safety. That would have cost them some loss of votes.

Secondly, people were also feeling the hardship and financial pain from the various right-wing policies implemented by PAP, which led to our local PMETs being marginalized, losing jobs in the process. They felt that they have been repudiated.

The third reason in my opinion is that there was an increased political awareness in our citizenry. A lot of people felt that their concerns were not adequately addressed and it was no longer tenable to give one party the absolute majority in parliament. We need a stronger alternative voice in parliament and PSP presented a credible alternative to the ruling party.

What are your plans for the next General Elections in 2025? And how do you think your RSC and Ground-Operations are going to help you win, if not deny the PAP of two-thirds majority?

We now have a voice in parliament through the two NCMPs and we'll raise questions and hold the government accountable for the lapses in the current policies. This will raise the party's profile.

We need to work harder and reach out to more Singaporeans, to find out what their concerns and misgivings are with the current system. Communicate with them and come out with solutions on how best to deal with such issues.

The electorate is not as homogenous as we think it to be. There are differences in the demographics, between the various age groups, ethnic groups and interest groups.

And sometimes the needs of these groups come into conflict with one another. Hence, it is important for us to engage them effectively and iron out the differences between them. I have put in place a very capable and effective team to run the Ground Operations and we are setting up grassroots and branches in the wards and constituencies that we contested in. So come 2025, if you ask me, I'm highly optimistic, a lot of work needs to be done, but we have a plan.

So how are you bringing on board new political talent? Is there a pull factor or are you going out actively looking for such talent?

It's a pull factor so far. PSP is a political startup with a lot of potential. We have hundreds of new members that have joined us since the General Elections. New members feel a sense of belonging and want to be part of the sea-change in Singapore's political climate.

Secondly, we've assembled a Youth Wing precisely to address the aspirations of our younger members. These youth want to step forward and will come through for us, for the cause. We need to make sure that the best of them surface to the top and go on to contest in the next elections. We walk the ground and walk the talk when it comes to politics in Singapore. So, if you're reading this, sign up as a member and be a part of this change.

院健平，新任命的助理秘书长，分享了他的从政之旅

健平，您可否分享您从政的动机以及为什么选择在这个时刻加入呢？

三年前，从政似乎不曾在我的脑海中浮现过。但我有一些前同事，好友与大学期间认识的同学皆感受到表面上新加坡的经济发展虽然尚属不错，然而我们都意识到社会上不平等的现象有逐渐上升的趋势而我们也见证了较不公平的竞争环境。在前进党成立的仪式中，我目睹陈医生演讲时哭泣了。我被他的政治信念与坚定的决心感动了所以决定与他并肩作战。

您在此次选举中获得了约百分之卅一的得票率。您认为前进党在哪些方面可以做得更多？

在这场选举中，我们皆渴望能拥有更多的时间。不过事实上我们都被局限为首阶段疫情的封锁期。因此，我们与选民们的互动只能够通过在线平台进行。这也意味着我们在争取建国一代选民时，面对了一定程度的阻碍。另一方面，在争取接触居住在公寓的选民时，同样碰到了重重困扰。因此，在未来的日子里务必要进行更多的基层访民生活活动。

行动党流失了将近百分之九的选票。从您的观点而言，您认为是基于什么因素造成了选票的流失呢？

好多选民觉得政府不应该在疫情期间进行大选，把政治置于生命和安危之上。此外，国人也因行动党采取了一系列偏右的政策而感受到生活的艰辛与痛楚。第三，我意识到国人的政治意识正日渐高涨。好多国人觉得他（她）们的观点没有得到应有的重视所以皆倾向认为在国会中需要有更强大的反对声音，而前进党正好提供了可信赖的替代选择。

请问在备战二零二五年大选中，您有任何具体的计划？

我们有两个非选区议员在国会中有发言权，我们将提出问题并要求政府对当前政策的失误负责。这将有助提高前进党的形象。另外，我们需要更加努力与选民们有效地沟通并消除群体各异的选民们之间的差异。除此之外，我已经建立了能力强且同时具有效率的团队。我们也正在筹备各支部基层的运作。我对下一届选举保持非常乐观的态度。我们需要做得更多，更好，而且也正在按计划进行。

那么，您如何培养新的政治人才？有没有拉动因素，或者您正在积极寻找新的政治人才？

前进党是一个政治上的新政党，潜力庞大。我们有数百位新成员是在竞选期间加入并都希望成为促使新加坡政治改革的一份子。我们也组建了青年团和妇女团。我们必需确保最深具潜质兼优秀的新血能够被培养成为领袖，以便能够带领党角逐下届大选。我们也欢迎读者们报名成为我们的会员并加入促使新加坡政治改革的一份子。

PSP Youth Wing aims to be Catalyst for Change

A chopstick on its own can be easily broken, but many chopsticks bound together are almost unbreakable. Together, the PSP Youth Catalyst can be a great force of change for this nation which we so love.



by Alfred Chua

PSP's Youth Wing might just be a month old, but it has big plans to tap on the support of the growing number of young voters. The aim is to bring in members and volunteers between the ages of 17 and 35.

Formed after the recent General Elections, which saw PSP perform well with the support of younger voters, the Youth Wing, 'PSP Youth Catalyst', will tackle issues that are weighing heavy on the hearts of the youth population. In the current Covid-19 climate the most pressing problem for the youth is that of employment.

PSP Youth Catalyst chief Terence Soon, who ran as a candidate in Tanjong Pagar GRC, tells The Palm that they have a few pressing issues in the pipeline which they hope to address. "We will be coming up with a slate of events related to employment for young adults. In addition, we will also focus on topics such as climate change and

environmental protection. Finally, we will look at the very sad and complex issue of youth suicides."

Rather than tackle issues from a top-down perspective, Terence believes that the Youth Wing members should be empowered to champion causes close to their heart. "We will give members who want to champion a particular cause enough latitude to run their own projects, backed by other members as well as the committee of the Youth Catalyst," he says.

The team has already hit the ground running — it is in the process of formalizing its work structure and is actively seeking collaboration with non-governmental organisations, social activist groups and even other alternative political parties.

Terence is in no way unaware of the challenges that confront the fledgling team, "as the PSP Youth Catalyst is newly formed, there will no doubt be issues with manpower and areas of expertise, and may limit the number and types of events that we can run."

"In order to overcome this, we will need talented individuals from all spectrums of the work force to join us. With a wide array of skillsets, we can address more issues that affect our young, and at the same time grow our Youth Wing."

Terence passionately explained how the team came up with the name - PSP Youth Catalyst. "While people tend to write off the youth as inexperienced and uninterested in serious issues, we believe that some of the younger Singaporeans are fully capable to effect change in today's world."

"The youth of today are no longer afraid of airing their views compared to the youth of yesteryears. They stand up for what they believe in and are more vocal. We want to empower them to be catalysts of change to make life better for all in Singapore." In tune with the Youth Wing's name, Terence is bullish about what the future holds.

"A chopstick on its own can be easily broken, but many chopsticks bound together are almost unbreakable. Together, the PSP Youth Catalyst can be a great force of change for this nation which we so love," a fitting parting shot from the new youth leader.

JOIN OUR MOVEMENT!

Our Flag Bearers in the 14th Parliament of Singapore



NCMPs Leong Mun Wai & Hazel Poa

PSP NCMPs will focus on Jobs, Social Safety Nets

by Toh Han Shih

The two Non-Constituency Members of Parliament (NCMPs) of the Progress Singapore Party (PSP) will focus on 'jobs for Singaporeans and social safety nets' when they raise issues in Parliament.

The PSP was formed just last year, yet won 40 percent of the votes in the wards they contested in during the General Elections on July 10. Although PSP failed to win any seat at the elections, it did well enough for two of its members to qualify as NCMPs, being the best-performing candidates that missed getting elected as Members of Parliament (MPs). Leong Mun Wai and Hazel Poa Koon were sworn in as PSP's NCMPs at the opening ceremony of Singapore's 14th Parliament on August 24.

Both of them were government scholars who previously worked in government institutions and then moved on to the private sector. Leong formerly worked at the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC) and in 1997 became managing director of OCBC

Securities. He is the founder and owner of a private equity firm. Poa previously worked in the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Finance, then left for the financial sector. She and her husband Tony Tan Lay Thiam now run education centres in Singapore and Indonesia.

In Parliament, Leong will focus on jobs and immigration, while Poa will concentrate on social safety nets. "It is important to stop the bleeding first," said Leong.

Unemployment has become a major problem in Singapore and other countries, as COVID-19 blighted the economies of Singapore and the whole world. The Lion City's unemployment rate rose from 2.4 percent in the first quarter to 2.9 percent in the second quarter, the highest level in more than 10 years.

"From the ground feedback, the loss of jobs to foreign talent and social safety net are the two most talked-about issues. Jobs are the foundation of human dignity. Just imagine the stress on the whole family when a breadwinner loses his job," Leong said.

"Having been ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic over the last nine months, the urgency and importance of strengthening the social safety net has become even more crucial. Even before COVID-19, economic policies have already undermined social equality and mobility," he added.

Poa said, “For now, what is most important is how to help the people cope with the current health and economic crises. This involves economic recovery and restructuring, ensuring job opportunities for Singaporeans, as well as assistance for individuals and businesses.”

“Over the longer term, I feel we need to change our mindset towards strengthening social safety nets, proactively reduce income inequality and reform our education system to better prepare our young for the future economy and society,” she added.

Poa sees her role in Parliament as providing checks and balances as well as offering alternative points of view and ideas.

Leong and Poa will be asking for more data for the sake of transparency and report cards on various policies, such as the Fair Consideration Framework and Singapore’s free trade agreements with countries like India.

The Fair Consideration Framework requires employers to give fair consideration to Singaporeans for job opportunities.

The two NCMPs will also ask for a report card on the use of the relief packages totaling about S\$100 billion, as announced by the government to counter the economic fallout from the pandemic, Leong said.

On her role as NCMP, Poa said, “Obviously I would have preferred to enter Parliament as an elected MP, but I would rather see the glass as half full than half empty. I am grateful for the opportunity to enter Parliament and be able to raise issues that are important to Singaporeans.”

On his Facebook on July 7, Leong described the NCMP scheme as “a sad invention for Singapore’s democracy”.

“The NCMP is most likely a ploy to lure the swing voters away from voting for the alternative camp... Hence the NCMP scheme in its current form is more like an anchor to prolong the one-party system in Singapore. The political system needs no further stabilization because in practice, the first-past-the-post electoral system has demonstrated that it strongly favors an entrenched incumbent,” Leong said in his Facebook page.

However, he told the Palm, “We nevertheless have to accept it in order to play by the rules imposed by the incumbent and to be the voice of the people who voted for us and those who supported us (but may not have voted for us). We intend to work for those who didn’t support us as much as for those who did.”

During breaks at the Parliament ceremony on August 24, Leong spoke to MPs of both the opposition Workers’ Party and the ruling People’s Action Party (PAP), including some PAP ministers, Leong disclosed. “My approach is to talk to people on both sides of the aisle.”

新加坡前进党非选区国会议员们将侧重关注就业与社会安全网

在 8 月 24 日举行的新加坡第 14 届国会开幕式上，代表新加坡前进党的两位非选区国会议员 (NCMP)，梁文辉先生与潘群勤女士，正式宣誓就职。文辉将侧重关注于就业和移民问题，而群勤将专注于社会安全网。

在过去的 9 个月里，我们一直受到新冠病毒 (COVID-19) 疫情的肆虐，以致百业萧条，“裁员”滚滚而来，所以加强社会安全网的紧迫性和重要性就显而易见了。失业也因此成为新加坡的一大问题，失业率从第一季度的 2.4% 上升到第二季度的 2.9%，是 10 多年来的最高水平。目前，最重要的是如何帮助国人应对当前的健康和经济危机。这涉及到经济复苏和结构调整，保障新加坡人的就业机会，以及对个人和企业的援助。从长远来看，我们需要强化和改变对社会安全网的观念，积极减少收入不平等。与此同时，我们还得改革教育制度，让我们的年轻人为未来经济做好更充分的准备。

群勤还指出她在国会中不但能起到制衡的作用也能提供替代性的观点和意见。

本着提高透明度和审视对各项政策的绩效，文辉和群勤将要求政府提供更多的数据，如涉及公平考虑框架和新加坡与印度等国家的自由贸易协定的数据等等。公平考虑框架要求雇主对求职的新加坡人给予被公平录取的机会。两位议员还将要求政府就最近宣布的总额约为 1,000 亿新元的一揽子救济计划的使用情况提供绩效报告。

文辉将非选区国会议员制度 (NCMP) 形容为 “新加坡民主的悲哀创举”，其目的是执政党企图说服中间选民别把票投给反对党，以延续现今的一党独大局面，而群勤也更愿意以民选议员的身份进入国会。考虑到这是现任执政者强加的规则，我们唯有暂时容忍它，以便能够在国会中为我们的国人发言。与此同时，我们将尽全力为全国人民服务，不分彼此。

文辉透露，在 8 月 24 日的国会仪式休息期间，他与工人党和人民行动党的议员进行了交流，包括人民行动党的一些部长。“我秉着公平的态度对待朝野双方。”

NCMP PSP AKAN MEMBERI TUMPUAN KEPADA PEKERJAAN DAN JARINGAN KESELAMATAN SOSIAL

Oleh Toh Han Shih

Dua Anggota Parlimen Tanpa Kawasan Undi (NCMP) dari Parti Kemajuan Singapura (PSP) akan memberi tumpuan kepada pekerjaan warga Singapura dan jaring keselamatan sosial ketika mereka menengahkan isu di Parlimen.

Walaupun PSP baru sahaja ditubuhkan pada tahun lalu, namun ia telah memperolehi 40 peratus undian untuk kawasan yang ditandingi semasa pilihanraya umum 10 Julai yang lalu. Peratusan undi yang di capai adalah satu prestasi yang cukup baik dan ia memberi laluan bagi PSP untuk memiliki dua kerusi NCMP sebagai Anggota Parlimen (AP). Pada pembukaan Parlimen ke-14 Singapura pada 24 Ogos, Encik Leong Mun Wai dan Puan Hazel Poa Koon mengangkat sumpah sebagai pelantikan NCMP PSP.

Mereka berdua adalah penerima biasiswa pemerintah. Sebelumnya mereka bekerja di sektor awam dan kemudian beralih kepada sektor swasta. Encik Leong pernah bekerja di Perbadanan Pelaburan Pemerintah (GIC) dan pada tahun 1997, beliau telah dilantik sebagai Pengarah Urusan OCBC Securities. Beliau sekarang adalah seorang pengasas dan pemilik firma eksekutif swasta. Puan Poa pula dahulu pernah bertugas di Pejabat Perdana Menteri (PMO) dan di Kementerian Kewangan. Beliau kemudian meninggalkan sektor kewangan untuk menguruskan pusat pendidikan di Singapura dan Indonesia bersama suaminya, Encik Tony Tan Lay Thiam.

Di Parlimen nanti, Encik Leong akan memberi tumpuan kepada pekerjaan dan imigrasi, sementara Puan Poa pula akan menumpukan perhatian pada jaringan keselamatan sosial. Encik Leong memberi gambaran bahawa "Penting untuk menghentikan pendarahan terlebih dahulu."

Atas sebab COVID-19 yang telah menjejaskan ekonomi Singapura dan seluruh dunia, pengangguran kini telah menjadi satu masalah besar di Singapura dan negara-negara lain. Di negara kita, kadar pengangguran telah meningkat dari 2.4 peratus pada suku tahun pertama kepada 2.9 peratus di suku kedua. Ini adalah tahap yang tertinggi lebih dari 10 tahun.

"Dari maklum balas rakyat, kehilangan pekerjaan kepada warga asing dan jaringan keselamatan sosial adalah dua isu yang paling kerap dibentangkan. Pekerjaan juga merupakan asas martabat manusia. Tak dapat di bayangkan tekanan pada seluruh keluarga apabila si pencari nafkah kehilangan pekerjaannya," jelas Encik Leong.

"Keutamaan mengukuhkan jaringan keselamatan sosial kini semakin jelas sejak COVID-19 melanda negara kita sembilan bulan yang lalu. Walaupun sebelum COVID-19 ini, dasar ekonomi masa lampau telah memperburukkan ketidaksamaan dan mobiliti sosial," tambahnya lagi.

Puan Poa berkata, "Buat masa kini, apa yang paling penting adalah bagaimana kami dapat menolong masyarakat mengatasi krisis kesihatan dan ekonomi semasa. Ia melibatkan pemulihan dan penyusunan semula ekonomi, memastikan peluang pekerjaan untuk rakyat Singapura, serta bantuan untuk individu dan perniagaan."

"Pada jangka masa panjang, saya rasa kita perlu mengubah pemikiran kita dan mengukuhkan lagi jaringan keselamatan sosial, secara proaktif mengurangkan ketidaksamaan pendapatan dan mereformasi sistem pendidikan kita untuk membekal anak muda kita dengan lebih baik untuk ekonomi dan masyarakat masa hadapan," tambahnya lagi.

Puan Poa memandang peranannya di Parlimen sebagai seorang penyemak dan penyeimbang serta menawarkan pandangan dan idea alternatif.

Encik Leong dan Puan Poa akan meminta lebih banyak maklumat demi ketelusan dan kad laporan mengenai pelbagai dasar, seperti Kerangka Pertimbangan Adil atau (Fair Consideration Framework) dan perjanjian perdagangan bebas Singapura dengan negara-negara seperti India, Encik Leong menerangkan.

Kerangka Pertimbangan Adil menghendaki majikan memberikan pertimbangan yang adil kepada rakyat Singapura untuk peluang pekerjaan.

Kedua-dua NCMP juga akan meminta kad laporan mengenai pembelanjaan pakej bantuan berjumlah angkaran \$100 bilion yang baru-baru diumumkan oleh pemerintah untuk mengatasi kemerosotan ekonomi dari wabak ini, kata Encik Leong.

Mengenai peranannya sebagai NCMP, Puan Poa menjelaskan, "Sudah tentu saya lebih mengharapakan memasuki Parlimen sebagai AP terpilih, tetapi saya juga memandangkan keputusan pilihanraya dengan cara positif. Saya bersyukur kerana berpeluang memasuki Parlimen dan menengahkan isu-isu penting bagi rakyat Singapura.

Di lelaman Facebooknya pada 7 Julai, Encik Leong menggambarkan skema NCMP sebagai "rekaan yang menghambat demokrasi Singapura".

"NCMP kemungkinan besar adalah rekaan untuk menarik para pengundi agar tidak memilih parti alternatif ... Oleh itu, skema NCMP dalam bentuknya sekarang ibarat seperti jangkar untuk meneruskan monopoli satu parti di Singapura. Sistem politik tidak memerlukan penstabilan lagi kerana dalam praktiknya, sistem pemilihan pertama-setelah-pasca telah menunjukkan bahawa sistem ini sangat berpihak kepada penguasa," kata Encik Leong di Facebook.

Namun, dia mengatakan kepada Palm, "Kami terpaksa menerima syarat peraturan yang ditetapkan oleh pemerintah supaya mewakili suara para pengundi dan penyokong kami (yang mungkin tidak dapat mengundi kami). Kami berhasrat untuk berkhidmat kepada mereka yang tidak mengundi kami tanpa sembarang perbezaan dengan penyokong kami"

Semasa rehat di upacara Parlimen pada 24 Ogos, Leong berbincang dengan AP dari kedua-dua pihak Parti Pekerja (WP) pembangkang dan Parti Tindakan Rakyat (PAP), termasuk beberapa menteri PAP, Encik Leong memberitahu. "Sikap saya adalah untuk berkomunikasi dengan kedua-dua belah pihak."

**சிங்கப்பூர் முன்னேற்றக் கட்சி (சிமுக)
தொகுதியில்லா நாடாளுமன்ற
உறுப்பினர்கள் வேலைகளிலும், சமூகப்
பாதுகாப்பு கட்டமைப்பிலும் கவனம்
செலுத்துவர்.**

சிங்கப்பூர் முன்னேற்றக்கட்சியின் இரண்டு தொகுதியில்லா நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர்கள், நாடாளுமன்றத்தில் பிரச்சனைகளை எழுப்பும்போது, வேலைகளிலும், சமூகப்

பாதுகாப்புக் கூட்டமைப்பிலும் கவனம் செலுத்துவர்.

சென்ற ஆண்டு தோற்றுவிக்கப்பெற்ற சிங்கப்பூர் முன்னேற்றக் கட்சி, நடந்து முடிந்த ஜூலை 10 ஆம் நாள் பொதுத் தேர்தலில் 40% வாக்குகளைப் பெற்றது. எந்த இடத்திலும் வெற்றி பெறாத போதிலும் சிமுக-வின் இரண்டு வேட்பாளர்கள் தொகுதியில்லா நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர்கள் என்ற தகுதியைப் பெற்றனர். இவ்விருவரும் தோற்றுப்போன வேட்பாளர்களிலேயே சிறந்த விழுக்காட்டினைப் பதிவு செய்துள்ளனர். சென்ற ஆகஸ்டு திங்கள் 24 □□□ நாள் 14-ஆவது நாடாளுமன்றம் கூடிய போது இவர்கள் தொகுதியில்லா நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினர்களாகப் பொறுப்பேற்றுக் கொண்டனர்.

இருவருமே அரசுக் கல்வி மான்கள். பொதுத்துறையில் பணியாற்றிவிட்டு தனியார்த்துறைக்குச் சென்றனர். திரு லியாங் முன் வாய் முன்பு சிங்கப்பூர் அரசு முதலீட்டு நிறுவனத்தில் பணியாற்றிவிட்டு, 1997 ஆம் ஆண்டு OCBC வங்கிக்கு மாறினார். தற்போது திரு லியொங் ஒரு தனியார் பங்கு நிறுவனத்தைத் தோற்றுவித்து நடத்தி வருகிறார்.

திருவாட்டி ஹேசல் புலா முதலில் பிரதமர் துறையிலும் பிறகு நிதி அமைச்சிலும் பணி செய்துவிட்டு தனியார் நிதித்துறையில் சேர்ந்தார். இப்போது அவரும் அவர் கணவரும் சிங்கையிலும் இந்தோனீசியாவிலும் பல கல்வி

நிலையங்களைத் தோற்றுவித்து நடத்தி வருகின்றனர்.

நாடாளுமன்றத்தில் திரு லியொங் வேலைகளிலும், குடியேற்றத்திலும் கவனம் செலுத்துவார். திருவாட்டி ஹேசல் சமூகப் பாதுகாப்புக் கட்டமைப்பில் கவனம் செலுத்துவார்.

கோவிட்-19 பல நாடுகளின் பொருளியல்களைப் பாதித்ததால், சிங்கப்பூரிலும் இதர நாடுகளிலும் வேலையின்மை முக்கிய பிரச்சனையாக உருவெடுத்துள்ளது.

சிங்கப்பூரின் வேலையின்மை விகிதம் முதல் காலாண்டில் 2.4% -இருந்து இரண்டாம் காலாண்டில் 2.9% -இற்கு உயர்ந்துள்ளது. கடந்த பத்தாண்டுகளில் இதுவே ஆக உயர்ந்தது. வெளி நாட்டவர்களுக்கு வேலைகளை இழப்பதும், சமூகப் பாதுகாப்புக் கட்டமைப்பும் அதிகம் பேசப்பட்டு வருகின்றனர். வேலையிழத்தல் ஒருவரது தன்மானத்தை பாதிக்கிறது. ஒருவர் திடீரென்று வேலையிழக்கும்போது, அவரது குடும்பம் மிகவும் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறது.

கடந்த ஒன்பது மாதங்களாக கோவிட்-19 தாக்கத்தினால், சமூகப் பாதுகாப்புக் கட்டமைப்பு அதிக முக்கியத்துவம் பெற்று வருகிறது. இதற்கு முன்பும் நம் பொருளியல் கட்டமைப்பில் பல குறைகள் தலைதூக்க ஆரம்பித்துவிட்டன. குறிப்பாக பொருளியல் சமூக ஏற்றத்தாழ்வுகள்.

திருவாட்டி ஹேசல் கூற்றுப்படி, நம் இப்போதைய முன்னுரிமை மக்களின் சுகாதார, பொருளியல் பாதுகாப்பை உறுதி செய்வது. மற்றும் பொருளியல் மீட்டீர், மறுசீரமைப்பு, சிங்கப்பூர்களுக்கு வேலைகள் உருவாக்கம், தனி நபர்களுக்கும், வர்த்தகங்களுக்கும் வேண்டிய உதவிகள் போன்றவையும் இவற்றில் அடங்கும்.

நீண்ட கால நோக்கில், சமூகப் பாதுகாப்புக் கட்டமைப்புக் குறித்த நம் மனப்பான்மை மாற வேண்டும். வருமான இடைவெளி குறைக்கப்பட வேண்டும். நம் கல்வி முறை மாற வேண்டும். எதிர்காலப் பொருளியலுக்கும் சமுதாயத்திற்கும் நம் மாணவர்களைத் தயார் படுத்தவேண்டும். நாடாளுமன்றத்தில் கூடுதல் மாற்றுக் கருத்துக்களையும் யோசனைகளையும் தெரிவிப்பதை தம் முதன்மை பணியாகத் திருவாட்டி ஹேசல் கருதுகிறார்.

திரு லியொங்ஙும், திருவாட்டி ஹேசலும் வெளிப்படைத் தன்மையைக் கட்டிக்காக்கும் பொருட்டு அரசிடமிருந்து அதிகத் தகவல்களைக் கோர முயலுவர். குறிப்பாக இந்தியா போன்ற நாடுகளுடன் செய்யப்பட்ட தடையற்ற வர்த்தக ஒப்பந்தங்கள், நியாயமான பரிசீலனை முறைகள் இவற்றில் அடங்கும்.

நியாயமான பரிசீலனை முறையின்கீழ் வேலைகளுக்குச் சிங்கப்பூர்கள் நியாயமாகப் பரிசீலிக்கப்பட வேண்டும். அண்மையில் கோவிட்-19, தொடர்பாக அரசு அமல்படுத்திய உதவித்திட்டங்கள் பற்றிய விவரங்களைக் கோருவர்.

திருவாட்டி ஹேசல் தான்
தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட நாடாளுமன்ற
உறுப்பினராக இருக்கவே விரும்புகிறார்.
இருப்பினும் இப்படிப்பட்ட வாய்ப்பின்
வாயிலாக மக்களைப் பாதிக்கும்
பிரச்சனைகளை எழுப்புவதற்காக நல்ல
வாய்ப்பாகக் கருதுகிறார்.

திரு லியொங் அவர்களின் கூற்றுப்படி,
தொகுதியில்லா நாடாளுமன்ற முறை
சிங்கப்பூர் மக்களாட்சிக்குக் கிடைத்த ஒரு
துயரமான கண்டுபிடிப்பு. ஆளும் கட்சியின்
நீடித்த ஆதிக்கத்தை உறுதி செய்யும் ஒரு
வகை சதி எனலாம்.

இருந்தாலும் திரு லியொங் இதை
ஏற்றுக்கொள்கிறார். நம் கட்சிக்கு
வாக்களித்தவர்களுக்கும், இதர
ஆதரவாளர்களுக்கும் குரல் கொடுக்க இதை
ஒரு நல்ல வாய்ப்பாகக் கருதுவதாகக்
கூறுகிறார். கடந்த ஆகஸ்டு 24 ஆம் தேதி,
நாடாளுமன்றத் திறப்பின்போது எல்லாக்
கட்சியினருடனும் தாம் அலவளாவியதை
திரு லியொங் சுட்டினார். அனைத்துத்
தரப்புக் கருத்துக்களையும் கேட்டறிவதையே
தாம் விரும்புவதாகவும் கூறினார்.

Women in Politics

THE FAIRER SEX IS HAVING A FAIR SHARE OF POLITICS AT PSP

Raised by her grandmother in Tiong Bahru, Wendy returns to Tanjong Pagar to take woman leadership to the frontline. Wendy has advocated for women issues with various NGOs in Hong Kong and Singapore, including AWARE. More recently, Wendy has been volunteering with a cross-border NGO to provide pro bono legal assistance to domestic workers who have been abused or unfairly treated at their workplace in Singapore. She also volunteers with various youth camps and NGOs that distribute food and rations to the homeless which recent survey suggests numbered around 1,000.



Wendy co-leads the Intellectual Property practice of Eldan Law LLP. Between 2008 – 2017, Wendy was a partner with one of the largest law firms in Singapore and Southeast Asia. She has been profiled as one of the “50 IP Litigators You Should Know”

GE2020 saw a record number of women lawmakers elected into Singapore's Parliament – 27 out of the 93 seats, or 29%, compared with 21 out of 89 seats, or 23% at the 2015 General Election. One of our two PSP NCMPs, Hazel Poa, is also a female politician who fought fiercely in West Coast GRC.

Several of PSP's female candidates were fighting one-on-one SMC battles, including Kayla Low and Gigene Wong, the latter famously termed by the media as the “\$30 public-listed CFO” against 18-year PAP veteran Amy Khor. Both PSP candidates had an impressive first time result of around 40% vote win, which suggests that Singaporean voters are prepared to consider women candidates on their own merit. Likewise, PAP's female candidates such as Sun Xueling, Tin Pei Ling and Gan Siow Huang defended SMC home grounds for PAP in Punggol West, Macpherson and Marymount respectively.

Indeed, women candidates have stepped forward from a range of backgrounds and have been quoted on a gamut

of issues, beyond traditional concerns such as social and family related policies. I have, through various media and online channels also spoken out on the need to establish an organisation similar to Hong Kong's Equal Opportunity Council to address workplace discrimination and using CPF as a simpler means of accessing relief in the Covid-19 crisis. Several videos were also launched by PSP during the campaign period in multiple dialects, as outreach, particularly to the elderly women to discuss day-to-day concerns such as rising cost of living and HDB housing.

Beyond policy discussions, the incident with Raeesah Khan showed that Singaporean voters will not stand for gutter politics and personal attacks. Despite two police reports filed on past racist comments, she emerged to become the youngest member to join the latest term of Parliament and the very first minority-race female opposition MP.

President Halimah Yacob and AWARE have expressed clearly that sexist comments or disrespectful analogies with domestic violence have no place in our society, and this heralds well for women looking to contribute to a more balanced, inclusive and diverse discussion in politics and in Parliament.

PSP WOMEN'S WING & BEYOND

Given the encouraging results and reception of women politicians, PSP in the immediate aftermath of GE2020 has set up the first Women's Wing as one of the leading alternative parties in Singapore. I have been tasked to oversee this set-up and to run it for a 2-year term.

In the near future, we will be organizing a series of online and panel discussions covering a range of topics such as household poverty, workplace discrimination and harassment, sexual violence and population growth. We will also be holding workshops on leadership training and grassroots campaigning for our female members.

There are plans for a formal launch of the Women's Wing in early December to tie in with the International Human Rights Day, to celebrate and validate Singaporean women from all walks of life.

We encourage our male members to join our dialogues to arrive at consensual and mutually respectful solutions. It is our belief that when gender is no longer a consideration, where Singaporeans can access equal work opportunities based on merit and when both men and women can live together harmoniously in an inclusive society we would have achieved true gender equality. And that is a vision worth striving for, beyond politics and elections.

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New Appointment Holders

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Michael Chua, Organizing Secretary

Ong Seow Yong, Head of Media and Communication

Kumaran Pillai, Media Liaison and Editor of The Palm

Wendy Low, Head of Women's Wing

Terence Soon, Head of Youth Wing

Harish Pillay, Head of IT Infrastructure

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Our dedicated members and volunteers are working hard every day.

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