

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

FIRST SESSION

ORDER PAPER

MONDAY, 21ST APRIL, 2008

No. 49

1.30 p.m.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER*

- *1. **Dr Teo Ho Pin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs if he will provide an update on the findings of the Committee of Inquiry which was set up to look into Mas Selamat's escape from the Whitley Road Detention Centre.
- *2. **Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs if he will provide an update on Mas Selamat's escape with regard to (i) the preliminary details of his escape; and (ii) what control measures are put in place to prevent a recurrence.
- *3. **Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs how is it that a top Indonesian terrorist leader whom Singapore and Indonesia took great pains in apprehending could escape from detention in Singapore.
- *4. **Mr Low Thia Khiang:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs if he will provide an update and assessment of the massive manhunt for Mas Selamat and the estimated expenditure of the operation.
- *5. **Dr Teo Ho Pin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs if he will provide an update on the manhunt for Mas Selamat and whether more can be done to engage the community and various stakeholders to further increase our security vigilance and alertness.
- *6. **Dr Teo Ho Pin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs what measures are taken to prevent (i) illegal entry/exit of goods and people into/out of Singapore; and (ii) the congestion at the Causeway and Second Link immigration/customs checkpoints during peak and off-peak hours.

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- *7. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Prime Minister what is the Government's approach to taking responsibility for major lapses in Government functions such as the escape of high-risk terror suspect Mas Selamat Kastari from the Whitley Road Detention Centre.
- *8. **Mr Low Thia Khiang:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry whether investor confidence and the international reputation of Singapore have been affected by the escape of Mas Selamat.
- *9. **Er Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry in view of moves from some rice exporting countries to curb their exports (a) how will this impact the supply of rice to Singapore; (b) whether there is any government-to-government contact to secure supplies for Singapore should the situation worsen; and (c) whether there is any special government task force monitoring the situation.
- *10. **Mdm Cynthia Phua:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry what steps have been taken to ensure that there is no illegal hoarding of rice by unscrupulous traders or retailers to take advantage of the rising prices.
- *11. **Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Acting Minister for Manpower (a) whether it is legal for employers to receive rebates from employment agencies for employing foreign workers; (b) what is the impact of such practices on the foreign worker levy policy which is aimed at regulating the inflow of foreign workers; and (c) what measures will be taken to prevent foreign workers from being exploited under such rebate schemes.
- *12. **Mr Baey Yam Keng:** To ask the Acting Minister for Manpower (a) whether the reported practice of employment agencies offering rebates to attract employers to take in foreign workers is prevalent; and (b) how is the Ministry addressing this issue where the foreign workers appear to have been exploited.
- *13. **Ms Eunice Elizabeth Olsen:** To ask the Acting Minister for Manpower (a) what is being done to prevent rogue agents from duping foreign workers into coming to Singapore; (b) if they are being duped, whether the workers are considered to have committed any offence and therefore treated as criminals; (c) what can be done by way of refuge for these workers who are either sleeping on the streets or living in unhygienic conditions; and (d) what is being done to speed up the investigation of these foreign worker cases.

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- *14. **Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports with the impending Formula One (F1) race in September (a) how will the F1 race benefit the promotion of motor sports in Singapore; (b) whether more funding will be made available to Singapore motor sports associations for the promotion and development of motor sports locally; and (c) whether there are any plans for fringe activities to involve the local community to engage the visitors.
- *15. **Er Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) why unsuccessful applicants in the first phase of a new HDB project are not automatically invited to the second phase of the project without having to submit a fresh application; and (b) will HDB change its current system to make it easier for its flat applicants.
- *16. **Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the long-term impact of genetically modified (GM) foods on our health; (b) which developed countries are issuing GM warnings on food packagings; and (c) whether his Ministry is prepared to implement similar warnings.
- *17. **Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng:** To ask the Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts if he will consider waiving the TV licence fees for all Public Assistance recipients.
- *18. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether LTA has any guidelines as to the maximum passenger capacity for each MRT train carriage and whether the maximum capacity, if any, is adequate to ensure a reasonable level of comfort for the passengers in the train.
- *19. **Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Minister for Transport how SMRT paid the fine for the train disruptions in January 2008 as there have been concerns from the public that this cost is funnelled down to the commuters.
- *20. **Mr Low Thia Khiang:** To ask the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources in view of the announcement by Tuas Power (recently acquired by China Huaneng Group) to consider building a coal-fired power plant in Singapore (a) what is his assessment of the impact of this plan on our environment; and (b) what regulatory measures are currently in place to protect the environment and to ensure that new clean coal technology is efficiently deployed to the advantage of Singapore.
- *21. **Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) when will the regulations and guidelines on aesthetic medicine be issued; (b) what will the regulations and guidelines cover; and (c) in the interim, whether doctors are allowed to continue with such procedures and how will the safety of patients be protected.

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- *22. **Dr Fatimah Lateef:** To ask the Minister for Health with the high incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis for a first world nation and a third of the cases being amongst foreigners and work permit holders (a) what is the Ministry's course of action and strategies to reduce the current 35.1 per 100,000 population incidence to less than 20 per 100,000 population as in other first world nations; and (b) whether this figure will have a bearing on our reputation as an international economic, financial and healthcare hub.
- *23. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Prime Minister in light of the rising cost of living especially with respect to food and other daily necessities, whether the Ministry will consider giving a cost of living allowance to all Government pensioners who have contributed in the past to the growth of the country.
- *24. **Mr Sin Boon Ann:** To ask the Prime Minister in light of the growing number of dependants who are reaching the age of majority who are still reliant on family support for various reasons, whether the Government will consider raising the age of civil servants' dependants from 18 to 21 years of age.
- *25. **Mdm Cynthia Phua:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether his Ministry has any plans to educate Singapore drivers on safety measures to adopt when driving along major highways overseas; and (b) whether defensive driving is included in the syllabus for learner drivers before qualifying for a driver's licence.
- *26. **Er Lee Bee Wah:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) if he can explain why pump prices of gasoline has risen when the US dollar has weakened against the Singapore dollar; and (b) whether his Ministry has been monitoring the rise in pump prices of gasoline to ensure that the oil companies are not profiteering.
- *27. **Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry in view of the impending Singapore Formula One (F1) race in September (a) what are the opportunities for businesses; (b) how many new jobs have been or will be created; and (c) whether there are plans for any allied exhibitions or shows relating to motor sports to be held separately to coincide with the F1 race in order to maximise the benefits.

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- *28. Mrs Josephine Teo:** To ask the Acting Minister for Manpower whether his Ministry has been notified by CPF members who have received contributions by companies who falsely claim to be their employers and, if so, what was the Ministry's response.
- *29. Dr Fatimah Lateef:** To ask the Acting Minister for Manpower (a) what are the different sources of help and support that are available for foreign workers and work permit holders pertaining to their welfare and the issues they face while living in Singapore; and (b) have the number of reported cases of abuse, mistreatment and improper accommodation been on the rise over the last three years.
- *30. Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the percentage of doctors in the public hospitals who have gone for HIV testing; (b) if a doctor declines to go for HIV testing and is subsequently found to be HIV positive, what measures will be taken to ascertain whether he has infected any patients; and (c) how will the Ministry trace the patients who have come into contact with such a doctor.
- *31. Ms Irene Ng Phek Hoong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) how many bicycle thefts have been reported each year over the last 5 years; and (b) what action has been taken to prevent the thefts especially at MRT stations and HDB void decks.
- *32. Ms Irene Ng Phek Hoong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) what action has been taken against reckless cyclists in Singapore; and (b) whether his Ministry has plans to reach out to schools to educate young cyclists on safe and responsible cycling habits.
- *33. Mr Seah Kian Peng:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry in light of the correction by EDB in the January manufacturing data from 6.9% to 11.7% growth (a) whether he will explain how this error in its January manufacturing data occurred; (b) what does EDB mean by "computation error in the application of the price deflator data"; and (c) whether this was a human or computer error.
- *34. Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Law (a) how many undischarged bankrupts are there presently; (b) how many of them are Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technicians (PMETS); and (c) how many of them are unemployed.

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- *35. Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Acting Minister for Manpower in light of the predicted 20,000 new jobs created with the upcoming integrated resorts, whether he will provide an update on the measures being taken to fill the potential deficit in persons working in the hotel and MICE industries.

* Members may signify to the Clerk their desire to postpone their Questions to a later sitting day, if their Questions are not reached by the end of Question Time. The forms for postponement of Questions are available at the Chamber entrances. Members are advised to give their notices to the Clerk by 4.30 pm.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

1. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs:

Committee of Inquiry Findings on Mas Selamat Kastari's Escape.

2. Prime Minister:

Government Responsibility.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Economic Development Board (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 6/2008] – (Minister for Trade and Industry) – Second Reading.
 2. Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 5/2008] – (Minister for Health) – Second Reading.
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QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

1. **Mr Seah Kian Peng:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) what is the current monthly pension paid out to former Deputy Prime Ministers Goh Keng Swee and Toh Chin Chye and other first-generation Cabinet Ministers; and (b) whether there is a formula for revision of these payments to keep pace with inflation.

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2. **Assoc Prof Kalyani K Mehta:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether there are plans to expand the Child Guidance Clinic (CGC) in the near future as there is an increasing trend in the number of children and youths seeking its services; (b) as work in the CGC can be time consuming and labour intensive, what is the staff turnover rate; and (c) what measures are in place to prevent staff burnout.
 3. **Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Minister for Health in respect of 2007 (a) what was the average bill size incurred by patients above 80 years old who were hospitalised in our public hospitals; and (b) how much of this bill was covered by Medishield and how much was paid through their Medisave account.
 4. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) whether the Government tracks social mobility vis-à-vis access to local university education and what are the indicators used; and (b) of the students entering NUS, NTU and SMU in the last 3 years, how far does the distribution of household income of the undergraduate population in the 3 local universities mirror or differ from the household income distribution of the general population.
 5. **Ms Sylvia Lim:** To ask the Minister for Education for the past 3 years, what is (i) the proportion of local students who graduated from NUS, NTU and SMU in debt due to the financing of their studies; and (ii) the average quantum of debt incurred.
 6. **Assoc Prof Kalyani K Mehta:** To ask the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports in view of the current squeeze on the middle and lower income groups of Singaporeans due to increases in cost of food and other necessities (a) whether the Ministry (in partnership with Community Development Councils (CDCs) and other private foundations) will consider publicizing on TV, radio and posters in various languages, the availability of food/grocery vouchers and temporary financial help for financially strapped families in these hard times; and (b) whether the Ministry will streamline the different schemes by different CDCs for easy utilisation.
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PAPERS PRESENTED

	<i>2008</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>
S. L.	48	Customs (Duties) (Amendment) Order 2008 13th March, 2008

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

	<i>2008</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>
S. L.	49	Passports (Amendment) Regulations 2008	13th March, 2008
S.	11	Advice of Council of Presidential Advisers on Appointment of Member and Deputy Chairman of Public Service Commission (PSC)	18th March, 2008
S.	12	Advice of Council of Presidential Advisers on Re-Appointment of a Member of Public Service Commission	18th March, 2008
Pres. Co.	6	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Internationally Protected Persons Bill [Bill No 1/2008]	19th March, 2008
Pres. Co.	7	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Workplace Safety and Health (Amendment) Bill [Bill No 2/2008]	19th March, 2008
S. L.	50	Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles, Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Rules 2008	19th March, 2008
S. L.	51	Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Vocational Licences and Conduct of Drivers, Conductors and Passengers) (Amendment) Rules 2008	19th March, 2008
S. L.	52	Planning (Amendment) Act (Commencement) Notification 2007	19th March, 2008

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

<i>2008</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>
S. L.	53 Planning (Development Charges) (Amendment No. 4) Rules 2007	19th March, 2008
S. L.	54 Planning (Development Charge - Exemption) (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2007	19th March, 2008
S. L.	55 Planning (Development Charges) (Amendment) Rules 2008	19th March, 2008
S. L.	56 Planning (Development Charge - Exemption in Relation to Historical Base Value) Rules 2008	19th March, 2008
S. L.	57 Planning (Development) Rules 2008	19th March, 2008
S. L.	58 Planning (Development Charge - Exemption) (Amendment) Rules 2008	19th March, 2008
S.	13 Advice of Council of Presidential Advisers on the FY 2008 Supply Bill	26th March, 2008
S.	14 Singapore Public Service Commission Annual Report 2007	2nd April, 2008
S. L.	59 Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles, Quota System) (Amendment) Rules 2008	3rd April, 2008
S. L.	60 Central Provident Fund (Division of Fund-Related Assets in Matrimonial Proceedings) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	7th April, 2008
S. L.	61 Central Provident Fund (Self-Employed Persons) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	7th April, 2008

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

	<i>2008</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>
S. L.	62	Central Provident Fund (Workfare Income Supplement Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	7th April, 2008
S. L.	63	Central Provident Fund (Medisave Account Withdrawals) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	7th April, 2008
S. L.	64	Central Provident Fund (Investment Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	7th April, 2008
S.	15	Arms Offences Act (Chapter 14, Revised Edition 2008)	8th April, 2008
S.	16	Banking Act (Chapter 19, Revised Edition 2008)	8th April, 2008
S.	17	Misuse of Drugs Act (Chapter 185, Revised Edition 2008)	8th April, 2008
S.	18	Radiation Protection Act (Chapter 262, Revised Edition 2008)	8th April, 2008
S.	19	Advice of Council of Presidential Advisers on Appointments of Attorney-General and Judge of Appeal of the Supreme Court	9th April, 2008
S. L.	65	Employment Agency (Amendment) Rules 2008	11th April, 2008
S.	20	Accounting & Corporate Regulatory Authority Annual Report 2006/07	11th April, 2008
S. L.	66	Charities (Fund-Raising Appeals) Regulations 2007	11th April, 2008

PAPERS PRESENTED - *continued*

	<i>2008</i>			<i>Date Presented</i>
S. L.	67	Charities (Large Charities) Regulations 2007	.....	11th April, 2008
S. L.	68	Charities (Registration of Charities) Regulations 2007	.....	11th April, 2008
S. L.	69	Charities (Composition of Offences) Regulations 2007	.....	11th April, 2008
S. L.	70	Charities (Fund-Raising Appeals) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	.....	11th April, 2008
S. L.	71	Charities (Institutions of a Public Character) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	.....	11th April, 2008
S. L.	72	Immigration (Special Entry and Clearance Arrangements) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	.....	16th April, 2008
