

PRESS RELEASE

THIRD REPORT OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

1. The Estimates Committee presented its third report to Parliament on 10 October 2018. The Estimates Committee had considered the Budget for the Financial Year (FY) 2018/2019 (Paper Cmd. 13 of 2018) and enquired into certain matters. Specifically, on the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations by the Committee on the Future Economy, the push towards a Smart Nation, progress updates on Changi Airport Terminal 5, borrowing by Statutory Boards and Government-owned Companies, and the Whole-of-Government approach to budget management and delivery of solutions.

2. In the course of its enquiry, the Committee held three meetings and considered two memoranda from the Ministry of Finance.

3. The Third Report of the Estimates Committee [Parl. 16 of 2018] is attached.

4. Ms Foo Mee Har, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee said, “The Committee noted that capability development accounted for over 90% of the \$1.7 billion of funding committed to date on Industry Transformation Maps. The Committee called on the Government to actively migrate best practices from one ITM to another and to consider other outcome indicators to gauge performance of the ITMs beyond Productivity and Manpower targets. Focus should also be on the impact of ITMs on wage growth and the transformative effects on workers and industries.

In the push towards Smart Nation, the Committee queried the Government on the adequacy of its ICT expenditure allocation towards cybersecurity and how citizens’ digital information can be better protected. It is critical that Singapore develops a strong core of highly competent public sector officers with cutting edge expertise in technology including data science and cybersecurity, and not be dependent on outsourced vendors and consultants, to supply the technological know-how. The Committee urged the Government to ensure that digitally-vulnerable segments of society are well supported for an inclusive and all-encompassing Smart Nation movement.”

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