

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

First Session

FRIDAY, 29 JANUARY 2016

No. 6

1.30 pm

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PRESENT:

Mdm SPEAKER (Mdm HALIMAH YACOB (Marsiling-Yew Tee)).

Mr AMRIN AMIN (Sembawang), Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Mr ANG HIN KEE (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr ANG WEI NENG (Jurong).

Mr BAEY YAM KENG (Tampines), Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth.

Miss CHERYL CHAN WEI LING (Fengshan).

Mr CHAN CHUN SING (Tanjong Pagar), Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Government Whip.

Mr CHEE HONG TAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Health.

Miss CHENG LI HUI (Tampines).

Dr CHIA SHI-LU (Tanjong Pagar).

Mr CHARLES CHONG (Punggol East), Deputy Speaker.

Mr CHONG KEE HIONG (Bishan-Toa Payoh).

Mr DESMOND CHOO (Tampines).

Mr DARRYL DAVID (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr CHRISTOPHER DE SOUZA (Holland-Bukit Timah).

Assoc Prof FATIMAH LATEEF (Marine Parade).

Mr CEDRIC FOO CHEE KENG (Pioneer).

Ms FOO MEE HAR (West Coast).

Ms GRACE FU HAI YIEN (Yuhua), Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Leader of the House.

Mr GAN KIM YONG (Chua Chu Kang), Minister for Health.

Mr GAN THIAM POH (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr GOH CHOK TONG (Marine Parade).

Mr HENG CHEE HOW (Jalan Besar), Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office.

Mr HENG SWEE KEAT (Tampines), Minister for Finance.

Ms INDRANEE RAJAH (Tanjong Pagar), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Law.

Dr INTAN AZURA MOKHTAR (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr S ISWARAN (West Coast), Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry).

Dr JANIL PUTHUCHEARY (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Education.

Mr KHAW BOON WAN (Sembawang), Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport.

Dr KOH POH KOON (Ang Mo Kio), Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Mr KWEK HIAN CHUAN HENRY (Nee Soon).

Dr LAM PIN MIN (Sengkang West), Minister of State, Ministry of Health.

Er Dr LEE BEE WAH (Nee Soon).

Mr DESMOND LEE (Jurong), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development and Deputy Leader of the House.

Mr LEE HSIEN LOONG (Ang Mo Kio), Prime Minister.

Mr LEE YI SHYAN (East Coast).

Mr LIANG ENG HWA (Holland-Bukit Timah).

Mr LIM BIOW CHUAN (Mountbatten), Deputy Speaker.

Mr LIM HNG KIANG (West Coast), Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade).

Mr LIM SWEE SAY (East Coast), Minister for Manpower.

Ms SYLVIA LIM (Aljunied).

Dr LIM WEE KIAK (Sembawang).

Mr LOW THIA KHIANG (Aljunied).

Ms LOW YEN LING (Chua Chu Kang), Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Mr MASAGOS ZULKIFLI B M M (Tampines), Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.

Dr MOHAMAD MALIKI BIN OSMAN (East Coast), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr MUHAMAD FAISAL ABDUL MANAP (Aljunied).

Assoc Prof Dr MUHAMMAD FAISHAL IBRAHIM (Nee Soon), Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social and Family Development.

Dr LILY NEO (Jalan Besar).

Mr NG CHEE MENG (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Acting Minister for Education (Schools) and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport.

Dr NG ENG HEN (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Minister for Defence.

Mr LOUIS NG KOK KWANG (Nee Soon).

Mr DAVID ONG KIM HUAT (Bukit Batok).

Mr ONG TENG KOON (Marsiling-Yew Tee).

Mr ONG YE KUNG (Sembawang), Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence.

Ms JOAN PEREIRA (Tanjong Pagar).

Mr LEON PERERA (Non-Constituency Member).

Ms DENISE PHUA LAY PENG (Jalan Besar).

Mr PNG ENG HUAT (Hougang).

Mr PRITAM SINGH (Aljunied).

Ms RAHAYU MAHZAM (Jurong).

Mr SAKTIANDI SUPAAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh).

Mr SEAH KIAN PENG (Marine Parade).

Mr K SHANMUGAM (Nee Soon), Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law.

Ms SIM ANN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Finance and Deputy Government Whip.

Mr SITOY YIH PIN (Potong Pasir).

Ms SUN XUELING (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Mr TAN CHUAN-JIN (Marine Parade), Minister for Social and Family Development.

Mr DENNIS TAN LIP FONG (Non-Constituency Member).

Ms JESSICA TAN SOON NEO (East Coast).

Dr TAN WU MENG (Jurong).

Mr PATRICK TAY TECK GUAN (West Coast).

Dr TEO HO PIN (Bukit Panjang).

Mrs JOSEPHINE TEO (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport.

Mr TEO SER LUCK (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Minister of State, Ministry of Manpower.

Mr THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM (Jurong), Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies.

Ms TIN PEI LING (MacPherson).

Mr EDWIN TONG CHUN FAI (Marine Parade).

Mr VIKRAM NAIR (Sembawang).

Dr VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr LAWRENCE WONG (Marsiling-Yew Tee), Minister for National Development.

Assoc Prof Dr YAACOB IBRAHIM (Jalan Besar), Minister for Communications and Information and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs.

Mr ALEX YAM ZIMING (Marsiling-Yew Tee).

Mr YEE CHIA HSING (Chua Chu Kang).

Mr MELVIN YONG YIK CHYE (Tanjong Pagar).

Mr ZAINAL SAPARI (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Mr ZAQY MOHAMAD (Chua Chu Kang).

ABSENT:

Mr CHEN SHOW MAO (Aljunied).

Dr AMY KHOR LEAN SUAN (Hong Kah North), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and Ministry of Health.

Ms LEE LI LIAN (Non-Constituency Member).

Mr SAM TAN CHIN SIONG (Radin Mas), Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Manpower and Deputy Government Whip.

Mr TEO CHEE HEAN (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security.

- 1 Paper presented to Parliament and received by the Clerk of Parliament pursuant to Standing Order No. 31 (Presentation of Papers) and ordered to lie upon the Table:
- 1.1 Report of the Committee of Selection – Presented on 29 January 2016 (Parl. 1 of 2016).
- 2 13 Questions for Oral Answer were answered during Question Time.
- 3 Registration of Criminals (Amendment) Bill – "to amend the Registration of Criminals Act (Chapter 268 of the 1985 Revised Edition)" – presented by the Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 8/2016].
- 4 President's Speech (Address of Thanks) – (Mr Christopher de Souza) (5th Allotted Day) – Question again proposed on resumption of Debate (25 January 2016), "That the following Address in reply to the Speech of the President be agreed to:
- "We, the Parliament of the Republic of Singapore, express our thanks to the President for the Speech which he delivered on behalf of the Government at the Opening of the First Session of this Parliament."
- Question put and agreed to.
- 5 Announcement by Speaker – Mdm Speaker made the following communication to the House:
- "Before we proceed with the motion, I wish to state for the record that at the general election held on 11 September 2015, Ms Lee Li Lian of the Workers' Party was declared by the Returning Officer as the candidate elected as a non-constituency Member of Parliament in accordance with section 52 of the Parliamentary Elections Act.
- With reference to section 53 of the said Act, I also wish to state for the record that Ms Lee Li Lian did not take and subscribe the oath of allegiance before this Parliament at its first or second sitting in its First Session held on 15 January 2016 and 25 January 2016 respectively."
- 6 Non-Constituency Member – (Mr Low Thia Khiang) – Motion made, and Question proposed – "That this Parliament, pursuant to section 53 of the Parliamentary Elections Act –
- (a) declares that the seat of Ms Lee Li Lian, who was elected a non-constituency Member of Parliament under section 52 of the Act, has become vacant by reason of her having failed to take and subscribe before Parliament the Oath of Allegiance under Article 61 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore at the first and second sittings of the first session of the present Parliament; and
- (b) resolves that the seat be filled in accordance with sections 52(2) and 52(3B)(a) of the Act."
- Amendment proposed, to add the following words at the end of the motion:
- "(c) but regrets that Ms Lee Li Lian, having stood as a Workers' Party candidate and received the highest vote share among all losing opposition candidates, has now decided to give up her NCMP seat to another candidate from her party with a lower vote share, contrary to the expressed will of the voters, and that the Workers' Party supports this political manoeuvre to take full advantage of the NCMP seat, even as its Secretary General criticises NCMPs as just 'duckweed on the water of the pond'." – (Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister, Prime Minister's Office).
- Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be added, be there added."; Debate arising.

- 7 Extension of Sitting – Pursuant to Standing Order 2(5)(d), Mdm Speaker extended the sitting beyond the moment of interruption for a period of up to 30 minutes.
- 8 Non-Constituency Member – (Mr Low Thia Kiang) – Motion made, and Question proposed – "That this Parliament, pursuant to section 53 of the Parliamentary Elections Act –
- (a) declares that the seat of Ms Lee Li Lian, who was elected a non-constituency Member of Parliament under section 52 of the Act, has become vacant by reason of her having failed to take and subscribe before Parliament the Oath of Allegiance under Article 61 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore at the first and second sittings of the first session of the present Parliament; and
 - (b) resolves that the seat be filled in accordance with sections 52(2) and 52(3B)(a) of the Act."

Amendment proposed, to add the following words at the end of the motion:

- "(c) but regrets that Ms Lee Li Lian, having stood as a Workers' Party candidate and received the highest vote share among all losing opposition candidates, has now decided to give up her NCMP seat to another candidate from her party with a lower vote share, contrary to the expressed will of the voters, and that the Workers' Party supports this political manoeuvre to take full advantage of the NCMP seat, even as its Secretary General criticises NCMPs as just 'duckweed on the water of the pond'." – (Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister, Prime Minister's Office).

Debate resumed on Question, "That the words proposed to be added, be there added."

Question put, and agreed to with the following Members dissenting:-

Ms Sylvia Lim (Aljunied)
Mr Low Thia Kiang (Aljunied)
Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap (Aljunied)
Mr Leon Perera (Non-Constituency Member)
Mr Png Eng Huat (Hougang)
Mr Pritam Singh (Aljunied)
Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong (Non-Constituency Member)

Question put on the Original Motion, as amended – Resolved, "That this Parliament, pursuant to section 53 of the Parliamentary Elections Act –

- (a) declares that the seat of Ms Lee Li Lian, who was elected a non-constituency Member of Parliament under section 52 of the Act, has become vacant by reason of her having failed to take and subscribe before Parliament the Oath of Allegiance under Article 61 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore at the first and second sittings of the first session of the present Parliament;
- (b) resolves that the seat be filled in accordance with sections 52(2) and 52(3B)(a) of the Act;
- (c) but regrets that Ms Lee Li Lian, having stood as a Workers' Party candidate and received the highest vote share among all losing opposition candidates, has now decided to give up her NCMP seat to another candidate from her party with a lower vote share, contrary to the expressed will of the voters, and that the Workers' Party supports this political manoeuvre to take full advantage of the NCMP seat, even as its Secretary General criticises NCMPs as just 'duckweed on the water of the pond'."

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- 9 Adjournment – (Leader of the House) – Resolved, "That Parliament do now adjourn to a date to be fixed."

Adjourned at 7.09 pm

HALIMAH YACOB,
Speaker

MEMORANDUM

Parliament stands adjourned to a date to be fixed.
