

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

First Session

MONDAY, 16 JANUARY 2012

No. 10

1.30 pm

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PRESENT:

Mr SPEAKER (Mr MICHAEL PALMER (Punggol East)).

Mr ANG HIN KEE (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr ANG WEI NENG (Jurong).

Mr BAEY YAM KENG (Tampines).

Mr CHAN CHUN SING (Tanjong Pagar), Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and Minister of State, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts.

Mr CHEN SHOW MAO (Aljunied).

Dr CHIA SHI-LU (Tanjong Pagar).

Mrs LINA CHIAM (Non-Constituency Member).

Mr CHARLES CHONG (Joo Chiat), Deputy Speaker.

Mr CHRISTOPHER DE SOUZA (Holland-Bukit Timah).

Assoc. Prof. FATIMAH LATEEF (Marine Parade).

Mr ARTHUR FONG (West Coast).

Mr CEDRIC FOO CHEE KENG (Pioneer).

Mdm FOO MEE HAR (West Coast).

Ms GRACE FU HAI YIEN (Yuhua), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts and Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources.

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

Mr GAN THIAM POH (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Mr GERALD GIAM YEAN SONG (Non-Constituency Member).

Mr GOH CHOK TONG (Marine Parade).

Mdm HALIMAH YACOB (Jurong), Minister of State, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

Mr HAWAZI DAIPI (Sembawang), Senior Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Minister for Manpower.

Mr HENG CHEE HOW (Whampoa), Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Leader of the House.

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

Mr HRI KUMAR NAIR (Bishan-Toa Payoh).

Mr INDERJIT SINGH (Ang Mo Kio).

Ms INDRANEE RAJAH (Tanjong Pagar).

Dr INTAN AZURA MOKHTAR (Ang Mo Kio).

Dr JANIL PUTHUCHEARY (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Mr KHAW BOON WAN (Sembawang), Minister for National Development.

Dr AMY KHOR LEAN SUAN (Hong Kah North), Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Deputy Government Whip.

Dr LAM PIN MIN (Sengkang West).

Er Dr LEE BEE WAH (Nee Soon).

Ms ELLEN LEE (Sembawang).

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

Mr LEE KUAN YEW (Tanjong Pagar).

Mr DESMOND LEE TI-SENG (Jurong).

Mr LEE YI SHYAN (East Coast), Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of National Development.

Mr LIANG ENG HWA (Holland-Bukit Timah).

Mr LIM BIEW CHUAN (Mountbatten).

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

Mr RAYMOND LIM SIANG KEAT (East Coast).

Mr LIM SWEE SAY (East Coast), Minister, Prime Minister's Office.

Ms SYLVIA LIM (Aljunied).

Ms PENNY LOW (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Mr LOW THIA KHIANG (Aljunied).

Ms LOW YEN LING (Chua Chu Kang).

Mr LUI TUCK YEW (Moulmein-Kallang), Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr MAH BOW TAN (Tampines).

Mr MASAGOS ZULKIFLI B M M (Tampines), Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr MOHAMAD MALIKI BIN OSMAN (East Coast), Senior Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence and Minister for National Development.

Mr MUHAMAD FAISAL ABDUL MANAP (Aljunied).

Dr LILY NEO (Tanjong Pagar).

Dr NG ENG HEN (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Minister for Defence and Leader of the House.

Ms IRENE NG PHEK HOONG (Tampines).

Mr DAVID ONG KIM HUAT (Jurong).

Mr ONG TENG KOON (Sembawang).

Ms DENISE PHUA LAY PENG (Moulmein-Kallang).

Mr PRITAM SINGH (Aljunied).

Mr SEAH KIAN PENG (Marine Parade), Deputy Speaker.

Mr SENG HAN THONG (Ang Mo Kio).

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

Mr SITO H YIH PIN (Potong Pasir).

Mr SAM TAN CHIN SIONG (Radin Mas), Senior Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports.

BG (NS) TAN CHUAN-JIN (Marine Parade), Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Manpower.

Mr PATRICK TAY TECK GUAN (Nee Soon).

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

Mrs JOSEPHINE TEO (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Transport.

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

Mr THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM (Jurong), Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Finance and Minister for Manpower.

Ms TIN PEI LING (Marine Parade).

Mr EDWIN TONG CHUN FAI (Moulmein-Kallang).

Dr VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.

Mr WONG KAN SENG (Bishan-Toa Payoh).

Mr LAWRENCE WONG (West Coast), Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education.

Assoc. Prof. Dr YAACOB IBRAHIM (Moulmein-Kallang), Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs.

Mr ALEX YAM ZIMING (Chua Chu Kang).

Mr YAW SHIN LEONG (Hougang).

Mr YEE JENN JONG (Non-Constituency Member).

Mr ALVIN YEO (Chua Chu Kang).

Mr YEO GUAT KWANG (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr VIKRAM NAIR (Sembawang).

Mr ZAINUDIN NORDIN (Bishan-Toa Payoh).

Mr ZAQY MOHAMAD (Chua Chu Kang).

ABSENT:

Mr S ISWARAN (West Coast), Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Second Minister for Trade and Industry.

Dr LIM WEE KIAK (Nee Soon).

Assoc. Prof. Dr MUHAMMAD FAISHAL IBRAHIM (Nee Soon).

Ms SIM ANN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Senior Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Minister for Law.

Ms JESSICA TAN SOON NEO (East Coast).

Dr TEO HO PIN (Bukit Panjang), Deputy Government Whip.

Mr ZAINAL SAPARI (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

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- 1 Papers 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 Salaries for a Capable and Committed Government – Presented on 10 January 2012 (Cmd. 1 of 2012).
 - 1.2 Central Provident Fund (Home Protection Insurance Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 3 of 2012).
 - 1.3 Central Provident Fund (Home Protection Insurance Scheme) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 4 of 2012).
 - 1.4 Central Provident Fund (Voluntary Contributions) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 5 of 2012).
 - 1.5 Central Provident Fund (Self-Employed Persons) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 6 of 2012).
 - 1.6 Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 7 of 2012).
 - 1.7 Central Provident Fund (Minimum Sum Topping-Up Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 8 of 2012).
 - 1.8 Central Provident Fund (Topping-Up of Special Account) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 9 of 2012).
 - 1.9 Central Provident Fund (Approved HDB-HUDC Housing Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 10 of 2012).
 - 1.10 Central Provident Fund (Ministry of Defence Housing Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 11 of 2012).
 - 1.11 Central Provident Fund (Approved Housing Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 12 of 2012).
 - 1.12 Central Provident Fund (Non-Residential Properties Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 13 of 2012).
 - 1.13 Central Provident Fund (Residential Properties Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 14 of 2012).
 - 1.14 Central Provident Fund (Approved Middle-Income Housing Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 15 of 2012).
 - 1.15 Central Provident Fund (Topping Up of Medisave Account) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 16 of 2012).
 - 1.16 Central Provident Fund (Medishield Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 17 of 2012).
 - 1.17 Central Provident Fund (Medisave Account Withdrawals) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 18 of 2012).
 - 1.18 Environmental Public Health (Food Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 19 of 2012).
 - 1.19 Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles, Registration and Licensing) (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2011 – Presented on 10 January 2012 (S.L. 20 of 2012).

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- 1.20 Advice of the Council of Presidential Advisers on the Appointment of Member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights (PCMR) – Presented on 11 January 2012 (S. 1 of 2012).
 - 1.21 Fees (Police Services) (Amendment) Order 2011 – Presented on 11 January 2012 (S.L. 21 of 2012).
 - 1.22 Fees (Winding Up and Dissolution of Companies and Other Bodies) (Amendment) Order 2011 – Presented on 11 January 2012 (S.L. 22 of 2012).
 - 1.23 Legal Profession (Solicitors' Accounts) (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2011 – Presented on 13 January 2012 (S.L. 23 of 2012).
- 2 Announcement by Speaker – "I wish to inform Honourable Members that I have on 16 January 2012 received a Message from the President addressed to Members of Parliament. Pursuant to Standing Order 16(1), I will read the Message to Honourable Members:
- 'Please refer to the White Paper titled "Salaries for a Capable and Committed Government" that has been presented to Parliament as Paper Cmd. 1 of 2012. As you know, I will adopt the President's salary as recommended by the Ministerial Salaries Review Committee backdated to 1 September 2011, the report of which is now part of that White Paper. I invite Parliament to consider passing a resolution to reduce the Civil List in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee.'
- I have also received a letter dated 15 January 2012 from former President S.R. Nathan addressed to the Prime Minister indicating his agreement in May 2011 to accept the recommendations of the Ministerial Salaries Review Committee on the President's salary. The letter also confirms his agreement to adopt the revised salary for the President, as contained in Paper Cmd. 1, from 21 May 2011 to 31 August 2011.
- At this point, I also wish to inform Honourable Members that I accept the recommendations on the Speaker's salary as contained in the White Paper on "Salaries for a Capable and Committed Government" presented to Parliament as Paper Cmd. 1 of 2012 and any subsequent resolutions necessary to effect the adjustments to my salary.
- I am also to inform Honourable Members that I have on 16 January 2012 received separate messages from Deputy Speaker Charles Chong and Deputy Speaker Seah Kian Peng. Both Deputy Speakers have indicated their acceptance of the recommendations on the Deputy Speaker's salary as contained in Paper Cmd. 1 of 2012 and to any subsequent resolutions that Parliament may make to effect the recommendations.
- In this regard, Honourable Members may wish to know that former Speaker Abdullah Tarmugi, and former Deputy Speakers Matthias Yao and Ms Indranee Rajah have indicated their acceptance of the recommendations on their salaries contained in Paper Cmd. 1 of 2012 and have agreed to adopt the revised salaries for their respective offices from 21 May 2011 to 9 October 2011."
- 3 21 Questions for Oral Answer were answered during Question Time.
- 4 Evidence (Amendment) Bill – "to amend the Evidence Act (Chapter 97 of the 1997 Revised Edition) to reform the law of evidence in relation to hearsay evidence in civil and criminal proceedings, evidence of electronic output, expert opinion evidence and legal professional privilege, and matters related thereto, and to make consequential amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 (Act 15 of 2010) and other written laws" – presented by the Minister for Law; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 2/2012].

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- 5 Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill – "to amend the Legal Profession Act (Chapter 161 of the 2009 Revised Edition) and to make a related amendment to the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Chapter 322 of the 2007 Revised Edition)" – presented by the Minister for Law; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 1/2012].
- 6 Order of Business – (Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, "That, in accordance with Standing Order 10(2), the motion standing in the name of the Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs as listed in the Order Paper for today be taken now."
- 7 Salaries for a Capable and Committed Government – (Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs) – Motion proposed, "That this House endorses Paper Cmd. 1 of 2012 on 'Salaries for A Capable and Committed Government' as the basis for setting the salaries of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker and Deputy Speakers of Parliament, political appointment holders, and Members of Parliament."
- 8 Time Limit for Speeches – (Leader of the House) – (with the consent of Mr Speaker and the general assent of Members present) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, "That the proceedings on the item under discussion be exempted from the provision of Standing Order No. 48(8) in respect of the Deputy Prime Minister's speech."
- 9 Salaries for a Capable and Committed Government – (Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs) – Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House endorses Paper Cmd. 1 of 2012 on 'Salaries for A Capable and Committed Government' as the basis for setting the salaries of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker and Deputy Speakers of Parliament, political appointment holders, and Members of Parliament."; Debate arising.
- 10 Extension of Sitting – Pursuant to Standing Order 2(5)(d), Mr Speaker extended the sitting beyond the moment of interruption for a period of up to 30 minutes.
- 11 Salaries for a Capable and Committed Government – (Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs) – Debate resumed on Question, "That this House endorses Paper Cmd. 1 of 2012 on 'Salaries for A Capable and Committed Government' as the basis for setting the salaries of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker and Deputy Speakers of Parliament, political appointment holders, and Members of Parliament."
- 12 Adjournment of Debate – (Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, "That the debate be now adjourned."
- Debate to be resumed Tomorrow.
- 13 Adjournment – (Leader of the House) – Resolved, "That Parliament do now adjourn."

Adjourned at 7.09 pm

MICHAEL PALMER
Speaker

MEMORANDUM

Mr Speaker will take the Chair again at 1.30 pm on Tuesday, 17 January 2012.
