

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE  
(SECOND SESSION)

ORDER PAPER  
MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2024

No. 120

12.30 pm

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER\*

- \*1. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) what is the Ministry's comparative assessment on the existing not-for-profit private acute hospital model in Singapore and those in other advanced economies in terms of (i) patient care (ii) talent development and (iii) alignment of institutional culture with the not-for-profit mission; (b) whether additional diversity in acute hospital models will complement Singapore's existing care landscape; and (c) what factors might constrain the viability of entrants to this new industry locally and how can these be mitigated.
- \*2. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what enhancements has LTA made to SimplyGo since its launch in 2019; (b) whether LTA is aware that SimplyGo does not display fare deductions and card balances since 2019 and how has LTA tried to address this; (c) what public consultation was done before LTA's initial decision for public transport fare payments to transit to SimplyGo by 1 June 2024; and (d) how do the public transport payment options in Singapore compare to those of other developed countries.
- \*3. **Dr Lim Wee Kiak:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) in the past three years, how many reports of overcharged trips have been received from SimplyGo card users; (b) whether enhancements can be made for card balances to be displayed on public transport fare readers; (c) what is being done to improve the reliability of the SimplyGo app; and (d) whether the mandatory upgrade to SimplyGo can be postponed till it is made compatible with in-vehicle units of motorcars so that it can also be used for motoring-related payments.
- \*4. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Transport regarding the SimplyGo public transport fare platform (a) what measures are implemented to ensure the reliability and security of the platform and backend system; (b) whether LTA will consider integrating an additional function to allow a card's balance to be displayed at MRT fare gate or bus card reader; and (c) whether LTA is able to continue to accept the use of older EZ-Link cards until such functionality can be achieved.
- \*5. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) to facilitate the transition to the SimplyGo EZ-Link card, whether LTA can extend the validity of the NETS FlashPay card for payment by commuters of buses and trains until the expiry of the card; and (b) whether LTA has considered the impact of compelling seniors who are less IT savvy to switch to the SimplyGo EZ-Link card system.
- \*6. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the reason for choosing a transport payment system like SimplyGo that does not show commuters the fares and deductions; and (b) what are the benefits that justify this trade-off.
- \*7. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the Smart Nation and Digital Government Office (SNDGO) has been consulted by the Land Transport Authority before the full transition to the SimplyGo system is announced; and (b) whether SNDGO will conduct a review to draw lessons from this incident regarding digital inclusivity.

- \*8. **Mr Don Wee:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) why is there a need to spend an additional \$40 million so that commuters can continue to use the present EZ-Link card-based ticketing system; and (b) what is the estimated shelf life of this proposed upgraded solution.
- \*9. **Mr Xie Yao Quan:** To ask the Minister for Transport what is the operational lifespan of the extended card-based ticketing system that was announced by the Land Transport Authority on 22 January 2024.
- \*10. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the cost of \$40 million to renew the present card-based ticketing system and continuing to run it alongside the SimplyGo system is a one-off or recurring expenditure; (b) how much has been spent or committed to be spent in (i) the development of the SimplyGo system and (ii) this conversion attempt, including time, manpower and other expenses.
- \*11. **Mr Xie Yao Quan:** To ask the Minister for Transport what lessons can be drawn from the change in decision to phase out card-based ticketing system on public transport for adult commuters as announced on 22 January 2024.
- \*12. **Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether there is a plan to integrate adult and concession cards in the card-based ticketing system; (b) how many commuters have converted to SimplyGo cards after 9 January 2024; (c) how can SimplyGo be enhanced so as to enable public transport fare readers to display fares charged and card balances; (d) whether there are plans to install more fare readers at MRT stations and bus stops for SimplyGo users to check their card balances in the interim.
- \*13. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the estimated remaining operational lifespan of the current EZ-Link system; (b) what specific lessons has the Ministry learned from the reversal of the EZ-Link system phase-out, particularly regarding technology integration and public communication; and (c) what concrete steps will be taken in future to ensure similar technology upgrade projects do not incur significant public expenditure waste.
- \*14. **Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether the card-based ticketing (CBT) system for public transport will continue to indefinitely operate in parallel with the SimplyGo's account-based ticketing system; and (b) if not, when does LTA plan for the CBT system to be fully decommissioned, including the concession cards for students, seniors and people with disabilities.
- \*15. **Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the total government expenditure to-date in developing the SimplyGo system for public transport; (b) what are LTA's projected annual savings from the use of only the SimplyGo system on public transport as compared to the current simultaneous use of both SimplyGo and card-based ticketing (CBT) systems; and (c) whether LTA plans to pass these cost savings on to commuters in the form of fare rebates when the CBT systems are eventually decommissioned.
- \*16. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what lessons has the Land Transport Authority learnt from the rollback of the decision to transit to the SimplyGo system; and (b) how long will the current card-based ticketing system be maintained before LTA considers another system transition.
- \*17. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what are the learning points from the reversal of the initial decision which mandated that SimplyGo will replace the card-based ticketing system in mid-2024 for fare payments on public transport; and (b) what steps will be taken to ensure that similar issues will be avoided in the future.

- \*18. **Miss Cheryl Chan Wei Ling:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what were the decision factors used when considering a switch of the public transport ticketing system; (b) how will the cost of maintaining or enhancing any future systems be viewed in respect of administrative efficiency and ease of convenience for commuters.
- \*19. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether plans to enhance the SimplyGo system will include the functionality to support a universal card that can be used for public transport, retail and motoring, such as that of the current EZ-Link and NETS FlashPay cards; and (b) whether such cards and the SimplyGo system will be made compatible with the new on-board units on vehicles under ERP 2.0.
- \*20. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what are LTA's longer term plans for the SimplyGo system, including in conjunction with the continual operation of the non-SimplyGo EZ-Link and NETS FlashPay cards; and (b) with the latest change of plans, what is the period of time for which LTA is expected to utilise the \$40 million estimated expenditure for hardware replacement and system maintenance.
- \*21. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what are the additional features of SimplyGo compared to the EZ-Link and NETS FlashPay cards; (b) between 2019 and 2023, what are the number and percentage of commuters that utilised these additional features; (c) how many commuters have switched back to card-based ticketing (CBT) cards free-of-charge after the Ministry's announcement on 22 January 2024 to operate CBT cards in parallel with the SimplyGo system; and (d) what efforts will be made to educate commuters more about SimplyGo going forward.
- \*22. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Transport in view of the extension of the card-based ticketing system which allows the use of NETS FlashPay cards on public transport, whether motorists and drivers can expect to still use NETS FlashPay cards in parallel with NETS CashCards for carpark and Electronic Road Pricing charges.
- \*23. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Prime Minister whether the Government considers it necessary to appoint a Committee of Inquiry to investigate former Minister S Iswaran's case at an appropriate juncture, with the paramount objective of affirming the Government's stance of keeping the system free of corruption.
- \*24. **Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry:** To ask the Prime Minister in view of the outcome of the investigations regarding former Member of Parliament S Iswaran, whether it is necessary to consider the matter further as resolved by this House on the motion moved by Leader of the House and agreed to by this House on 19 September 2023.
- \*25. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) how has the Ministry assessed that the F1 contracts were not structured to the disadvantage of the Government; (b) whether any audits have found areas of non-compliance in the Ministry's processes that may have compromised the structuring of the F1 contracts; and (c) whether such areas of non-compliance, if any, involved the Minister exercising his discretion to make exceptions to standard operating procedures, without requiring the approval of the Cabinet.
- \*26. **Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry in light of CPIB's findings on former Minister S Iswaran (a) whether he has directed the Singapore Tourism Board to conduct a full assessment of the relationship between former Minister S Iswaran and Mr Ong Beng Seng concerning the F1 Singapore Grand Prix; and (b) if so, whether there have been possible areas of lapses in due diligence and reporting processes.

- \*27. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) how will the ongoing corruption allegations against former Minister S Iswaran affect the conduct of our economic and investment-oriented agencies in attracting business and investors; (b) whether the Ministry will review and strengthen current guidelines for how these agencies engage with private entities; and (c) what steps will the Government take to address any public concerns and uphold Singapore's reputation for integrity and good governance in the international business community.
- \*28. **Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui:** To ask the Prime Minister in light of CPIB's findings on former Minister S Iswaran (a) whether the current system of checks and balances, including the governance of senior public officials and whistle-blowing processes, adequately deliver on its intended purposes; and (b) whether there are areas for further improvements or enhancements.
- \*29. **Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui:** To ask the Prime Minister in light of CPIB's findings on former Minister S Iswaran (a) whether the Minister-in-charge of the Public Service is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the rules guiding the interactions of political office holders and officers of the public service with private sector stakeholders in social settings; and (b) whether any insight can be provided into the measures under consideration to enhance the guidelines to ensure utmost integrity in such engagements.
- \*30. **Mr Derrick Goh:** To ask the Prime Minister regarding the acceptance or obtainment of a valuable thing by public servants or political office holders (a) whether there is an established system for declarations of such gifts; (b) how is monitoring performed to detect absent or inadequate consideration of such declarations across the Government; and (c) whether governance and controls will be reviewed to further improve their effectiveness.
- \*31. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Prime Minister whether there are any plans to review or revise the Code of Conduct for Ministers and the whistleblowing framework for public officers and to mandate refresher training on the Code of Conduct for public officers.
- \*32. **Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) in each year from 2019 to 2023, what is the number of companies that have failed to provide the Ministry with Mandatory Retrenchment Notifications within the required period of five working days after affected employees are notified of their retrenchment; and (b) what actions have been taken against such companies.
- \*33. **Dr Tan Wu Meng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the retrenchment exercise carried out by an e-commerce company in early January 2024 has been notified to the Ministry in line with mandatory requirements for employers with Singapore-registered businesses with at least 10 employees; (b) if so, what has been the timeline and what action has been taken by the Ministry following the notification; and (c) if not notified, what action has the Ministry taken regarding the non-compliance with mandatory retrenchment notification requirements.
- \*34. **Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in view of the recent episodes of manpower reduction exercises carried out by several leading companies, what is the Ministry's overall view of the job market in the next few months.
- \*35. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Manpower regarding the recent layoffs by an e-commerce company which was not notified to the unions (a) whether the Ministry has data on the number of employees who were laid off with a breakdown by nationality; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider regulating non-compete clauses in employment contracts.

- \*36. **Mr Neil Parekh Nihil Rajnikant:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in view of the sudden retrenchment exercise in early January 2024 that was conducted by a large e-commerce company before consulting the workers' union, what steps will the Ministry take to ensure that tripartism is maintained when companies carry out retrenchment exercises.
- \*37. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether there are any penalties for companies who carry out retrenchment exercises without notifying and consulting the relevant trade unions; and (b) what specific measures is the Ministry taking to ensure that companies operating in Singapore adhere to fair labour practices, particularly in terms of providing advance notice and adequate compensation to employees in the event of layoffs.
- \*38. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what will be the impact of the recent global shipping disruptions on local consumers and businesses; and (b) whether the Government will consider having more mitigating measures to counter such impact.
- \*39. **Mr Darryl David:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) how will adverse impacts on the international shipping industry due to tensions in the Red Sea between the United States and the Houthis affect the Singapore economy; and (b) what steps will the Government take to mitigate impacts on the Singapore economy, if any.
- \*40. **Mr Saktiandi Supaat:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what proportion of Singapore's imports are shipped via the Red Sea; (b) whether there is any concentration of goods that are shipped via the Red Sea; and (c) whether the recent Red Sea shipping disruptions has impacted the short-term and medium-term inflation outlook for the Singapore economy and, if so, how.
- \*41. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Education with regard to the relocation of Outram Secondary School to Sengkang (a) what were the factors which led to the decision; (b) whether there will still be sufficient school places for students when new housing comes onstream; and (c) whether any consultation took place with stakeholders of the school and members of the community before the decision to relocate was made.
- \*42. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Education as one of Singapore's oldest schools and one of the few Government schools with its own swimming pool, how will the history and heritage of Outram Secondary School be retained in view of the school's relocation to Sengkang.
- \*43. **Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether an update can be provided on the development of Changi Airport Terminal 5 and its possible completion date; and (b) how is Changi Airport preparing for a possible surge of air traffic in 2024 as the International Air Transport Association expects global air travel volume to exceed pre-pandemic in 2024.
- \*44. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for National Development of the approximately 110,000 HDB flats which remain occupied by their owners but have bedrooms rented out (a) what is the total number of tenants in these HDB flats and how many tenants comprise Singaporeans and non-Singaporeans respectively; and (b) what is the rationale for not applying the Non-Citizen Quota for HDB neighbourhoods and blocks to the renting out of bedrooms.
- \*45. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Health regarding the cases of tuberculosis detected in Bukit Merah (a) whether the National Tuberculosis (TB) Programme was effective and timely in helping the Ministry to pick up such potential clusters; (b) whether the current cluster shows signs of the emergence of multi-drug resistant TB; and (c) what are the lessons learnt from this episode which can be used to prevent further spread or future outbreaks of the disease.

- \*46. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) what is the percentage of households that fully redeemed their Community Development Council (CDC) Vouchers for 2023; and (b) whether the Ministry will study how to effectively redistribute unredeemed CDC Vouchers to benefit the vulnerable.
- \*47. **Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs whether the Ministry will set up a separate confinement facility and programme for adults with special needs such as intellectual challenges or autism who are incarcerated to ensure their safety and better outcomes upon their return to the community.
- \*48. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development in view that pre-schools will have two additional days of holidays from 2024, whether the Ministry will consider increasing the childcare leave for parents by two more days.
- \*49. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether the demarches made by China to Singapore in response to Singapore's congratulatory message to Taiwan's new President will affect (i) Singapore's relationship with China and (ii) Singapore's "One China" policy.
- \*50. **Mr Alex Yam Ziming:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how will HDB's move to space out BTO launches and reduce the number of Sale of Balance Flats exercises benefit applicants; and (b) what comprehensive monitoring measures is the Ministry employing to assess the impact of this policy change on the entire housing landscape, especially the resale market, in the initial stages.
- \*51. **Ms Carrie Tan:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) how are feedback and requests from the public, medical professionals, and Members of Parliament weighted when considering whether a condition should be included in the Chronic Disease Management Programme (CDMP) to be eligible for treatment subsidies; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider creating an additional category to subsidise treatment costs of non-CDMP conditions such as glaucoma which if left untreated can impair the Instrumental Activities of Daily Living of senior persons.
- \*52. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) can consider investigating cases of vulnerable elderly persons with gambling predispositions being allowed to purchase relatively cheap membership into private clubs purely with a view to gain access to the jackpot machines there; and (b) whether GRA can consider regularly auditing and assessing the responsible gaming standards of private clubs with jackpot machines.
- \*53. **Mr Darryl David:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) what is the number of students who have been admitted into secondary schools under the Direct School Admission (DSA) scheme in the last five years; (b) whether there are DSA talent areas that are more popular than others; (c) whether the Ministry will consider increasing the total number of places under the DSA scheme in secondary schools; and (d) whether the DSA talent areas can be expanded to allow more diversity in DSA admissions.
- \*54. **Mr Ang Wei Neng:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how many HDB neighbourhood centres have been selected for Revitalisation of Shops (ROS) scheme after the Housing and Development Act 1959 has been amended in January 2023; and (b) whether the Ministry will increase the budget for ROS given that the construction cost has increased significantly in the last one year.
- \*55. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the Ministry will consider tracking the number of women and men who have undergone fertility screening at both public and private hospitals; and (b) if not, why not.

- \*56. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Minister for Manpower whether household income can be removed as an eligibility criterion for the Silver Support Scheme so that an applicant does not have to move out from his child's home to be eligible for the scheme.
- \*57. **Mr Lim Biow Chuan:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) whether IRAS will review the methods used to determine the annual value of properties for which there is a dearth of comparable rental evidence; (b) how many properties in Singapore have had their annual values increased by more than 20% from the preceding year; and (c) whether the property taxes on owner-occupiers of such properties can be mitigated since they are not deriving any rental revenue.
- \*58. **Ms Ng Ling Ling:** To ask the Minister for National Development where applicants for flats under the Public Rental Scheme have circumstances that warrant urgent accommodation, what alternatives to public rental flats can the Ministry provide during their waiting time for allocation of a rental flat.
- \*59. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) what assistance is available to Singaporeans without dependants or with only distant dependants for (i) estate planning (ii) pre-funeral planning and (iii) funeral and afterlife arrangements; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider extending financial assistance to lower-income families to alleviate the financial impact of the above on such families.
- \*60. **Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Transport in view of the upcoming rollout of ERP 2.0, whether there are considerations to compensate point-to-point drivers on the downtime that is required for installing the new on-board units in their vehicles.
- \*61. **Mr Alex Yam Ziming:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how many public recreational facilities in HDB estates have been closed due to complaints in the past three years; (b) how is Ministry engaging the community to promote a more considerate use of shared recreational spaces; and (c) what measures are there to address persistent disruptive behaviour by inconsiderate users as well as unreasonable demands by complainants.
- \*62. **Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs in view of the ongoing situation and the progress of implementing the “Five-Point Consensus” in Myanmar, what is the Ministry’s assessment of the impact on ASEAN’s unity and image.
- \*63. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth in recognition of the importance of dignified, sustainable and employability of our ageing demographics, whether the Government will consider establishing a framework on paid volunteering work that will guide the provision of subsistence compensation to robust seniors who are engaged by social and community organisations, such as active ageing centres, to support their operations.
- \*64. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) how many retired officers have the law enforcement agencies (Home Team) helped to transition to new careers in the last five years; (b) what are the top five industries and jobs that these officers have transitioned to; and (c) what are the future plans to enhance the career transition for retiring officers.
- \*65. **Ms Ng Ling Ling:** To ask the Minister for Law in view that less than 30% of applications at the Community Mediation Centre involving disputes between neighbours had proceeded to mediation in the last three years and the high success rate of the amicable resolution of more than 80% of such mediated cases, whether the Ministry will consider making such mediation compulsory upon an application to reduce any long-drawn or escalated disputes between neighbours.

- \*66. **Mr Pritam Singh:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the Ministry will implement the recommendation by the Community Advisory Panel on Neighbourhood Noise on a quantitative noise threshold in the form of decibels to help in the assessment of egregious cases of neighbourhood noise.
- \*67. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) whether individuals and contractors who are currently involved in corruption investigations or convicted on corruption charges involving Government officials will (i) be debarred from future Government contracts and (ii) have existing Government contracts modified or cancelled; and (b) what is the framework for making such determinations.
- \*68. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether HDB can review its current policy of excluding carpentry works, steel works, installation of electrical wiring, overlaying of tiles and other similar works from the need to obtain renovation permits with a view to require permits to be applied for all works as long as such works are noise- and dust-generating and expected to be carried out for a significant period of time.
- \*69. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) over the last five years, what is the proportion of ex-offenders who secured employment; (b) what are the key challenges faced in finding suitable employment for ex-offenders; and (c) what are the Ministry's plans and support measures to enhance employment opportunities for them.
- \*70. **Ms Ng Ling Ling:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development in each of the last three years, whether the Ministry has data on (i) the number of new social enterprises that have been registered with the Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise (raiSE) (ii) the number of social enterprises that have been closed and deregistered and (iii) the number of social enterprises that have been deregistered due to financial hardship to sustain the social enterprises.
- \*71. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment in assessing ventilation in migrant worker dormitories using carbon dioxide measurements as a proxy (a) whether the Ministry will consider taking measurements in separate locations, including workers' sleeping rooms; and (b) whether the Ministry will include all types of dormitories, such as Construction Temporary Quarters and Factory-Converted Dormitories.
- \*72. **Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) whether the monthly per capita household income (PCHI) is one of the criteria for admission into Government-funded nursing homes; (b) in the past year, how many applicants for places in such nursing homes have been rejected because their PCHI exceeded \$2,800; (c) what has been the median PCHI of such applicants who have been rejected; and (d) whether the Ministry can consider increasing the PCHI ceiling for admission into such nursing homes.
- \*73. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) over the last five years, how many workers who have reached retirement age managed to secure re-employment until the re-employment age limit of 68 years old; and (b) what are the Ministry's plans to enhance the employability and availability of suitable jobs for these older workers.
- \*74. **Assoc Prof Razwana Begum Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development as part of the proposed review of safety and security measures in the early childhood sector, whether the Ministry is considering working with the sector to develop a Child Safeguarding Framework.
- \*75. **Ms Yeow Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Ministry will consider (i) reviewing the current limit of 12 hours of work a day and (ii) having a weekly work hour limit, for full-time salaried taxi drivers.

- \*76. **Mr Gan Thiam Poh:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) whether the Ministry is projecting an increase in demand for HDB Executive Condominiums (EC); and (b) if not, why is the Ministry not projecting such an increase and not increasing the supply of Government Land Sales for the development of EC projects.
- \*77. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) in each of the past three years, how many reports have been lodged by persons whose addresses have been used by scammers for the purpose of inducing victims of scams to collect goods that they have been cheated into purchasing from the said addresses; (b) what is the offence classification of such cases and whether the Police investigates such cases; and (c) what measures can be taken to provide assistance to such persons.

\* Members may postpone their Questions to a later sitting day if their Questions are not reached by the end of Question Time (QT). For such Questions, Members may email to [parl\\_cop@parl.gov.sg](mailto:parl_cop@parl.gov.sg) in advance a postponement notice that will be effected after QT. Members must submit their notices to the Clerk within one hour after the end of QT (SO 22(3)). Questions will be given a written answer if no such notices are received by the Clerk within the stipulated time.

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## AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

### Introduction of Government Bill

1. **Minister for Health:**  
Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Bill.

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## ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Criminal Procedure (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill [Bill No. 6/2024] – (Minister for Law) – Second Reading.
2. Administration of Muslim Law (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 3/2024] – (Minister for Social and Family Development and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs) – Second Reading.
3. Prevention of Proliferation Financing and Other Matters Bill [Bill No. 2/2024] – (Minister for Law) – Second Reading.

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## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

1. The Society of Saint Maur Incorporation (Amendment) Bill as reported from the Select Committee (Paper Parl. 19 of 2024) – Ms Joan Pereira (Tanjong Pagar) – Third Reading.
2. **Dr Wan Rizal (Jalan Besar):**  
**Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui (Holland-Bukit Timah):**  
**Ms Mariam Jaafar (Sembawang):**  
**Dr Tan Wu Meng (Jurong):**  
**Mr Yip Hon Weng (Yio Chu Kang):**

ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH: That this House recognises the importance of mental health as a health, social and economic issue; affirms the importance of a robust national mental health ecosystem; and calls for a whole-of-Singapore effort to implement a national strategy to enhance mental health and well-being.

**3. Mr Leong Mun Wai (Non-Constituency Member):  
Ms Hazel Poa (Non-Constituency Member):**

PUBLIC FINANCES: That this House calls on the Government to review its current budget and reserve accumulation policies in order to help present-day Singaporeans reduce their financial burdens and improve their quality of life, while continuing to save for future generations of Singaporeans.

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**MEMORANDUM**

Matter proposed to be raised on the Motion for the Adjournment (SO 2(8)(b)).

Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song : Global Leadership in Artificial Intelligence.  
(Aljunied)

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**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

- Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether financial institutions are required to report to the Monetary Authority of Singapore or any other authorities the amounts lost to scams by their customers; and (b) if so, what have been the amounts lost in 2022 and 2023 with breakdowns by financial institutions.
- Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) what are the strategies being adopted to encourage firms to implement the additional two weeks of paternity leave that are given on a voluntary basis by employers; and (b) how does the Government plan to monitor and ensure compliance with this policy once it becomes mandatory.
- Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Prime Minister (a) whether the Monetary Authority of Singapore has data on the proportion, by dollar amounts of deposits, of (i) savings accounts that earn the current base interest rate of 0.05% per annum and (ii) savings accounts that earn more than the base interest rate; and (b) for savings accounts that earn more than the base interest rate, what is effective interest rate earned in 2023 at major local banks.
- Mr Sitoh Yih Pin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance (a) in the last two years, what is the number of appeals received from Singaporean singles to waive the Additional Buyer's Stamp Duty on the basis that they are switching homes; and (b) how many of such appeals have been successful and what are the reasons for the successful appeals.
- Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance whether the Ministry will consider providing continued rebates in property taxes for owner-occupied private properties for the next five years beyond the once-off rebates.
- Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Defence (a) what is the risk of conflict escalation from the recent US strikes on Houthi sites in Yemen; (b) how will this impact Singapore's further participation in the defensive coalition under Operation Prosperity Guardian in the Red Sea; and (c) whether Singapore's role will be limited to contributing personnel to protect shipping vessels through maritime patrols and information sharing.

7. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Defence in light of the Singapore Armed Forces' contribution of a two-man medical team to the hospital ship, FS Dixmude, berthed in Egypt to treat casualties received from Gaza (a) whether an update can be provided on the situation faced on the ground by the SAF team; and (b) what are the plans to assess the needs to increase Singapore's contribution of medical expertise or supplies and other humanitarian aid to casualties in Gaza in the near future.
8. **Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Minister for Defence what measures has RSAF undertaken at Tengah Airbase to mitigate aircraft noise when landing and flying over Jurong West area, taking into consideration that there are more residents working from home, schools in the proximity and families with infants at home.
9. **Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs with regard to the pending cases before the International Court of Justice filed against Israel under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (a) what is Singapore's position on the application for provisional measures sought by South Africa; and (b) what are the actions that Singapore will take in terms of foreign and diplomatic relations in light of the contractual obligations of States under Article I of the Convention.
10. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) for each of the past three years, what is the number of swatting cases that have been reported to the Police on prank calls to emergency services to direct attention at a particular address with a view to harass the occupant or a person who has a connection with the property at the address; and (b) whether, having regard to the additional aggravating harassment element in such conduct, there is a need to update the laws to deal with persons engaged in swatting.
11. **Ms Hazel Poa:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what is the duration of time taken by the Traffic Police at the 5th, 50th and 95th percentiles to complete investigations into traffic accidents.
12. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the Ministry will expedite the deadline for installing speed limiters in lorries in the lower weight category in the interest of public safety; and (b) what targeted assistance options, such as technical support, installation subsidies or awareness campaigns, are being considered to encourage companies and drivers to install speed limiters without undue delay.
13. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Law (a) other than temporary hawker centres, what other circumstances are state lands allowed to be rented to private individuals at zero cost or below market cost; and (b) what are the justifications for doing so.
14. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry what steps will the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore take to provide companies with clear guidelines on how to market their products so as to avoid unintentional greenwashing and unfair practices.
15. **Ms Joan Pereira:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) whether there has been a significant increase in the number of complaints received by the Committee Against Profiteering since 1 January 2024 about businesses raising their prices, citing the increase in GST to 9%; (b) whether there has been feedback received about businesses in the same industry raising prices together at the same time; and (c) whether the Ministry will be investigating such cases for potential violations of anti-competition regulations.
16. **Mr Neil Parekh Nimil Rajnikant:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry with regard to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on a Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone, what is the Ministry's assessment on how trade associations and chambers of commerce from Singapore and Johor can contribute to help both countries achieve the agreed goals.

17. **Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry (a) what is the current level of participation by businesses in the Energy Efficiency Grant programme; (b) how is the Ministry assessing the effectiveness of this grant in terms of its (i) environmental impact and (ii) economic returns; and (c) whether there is potential for the expansion of this programme to encompass a greater number of enterprises seeking to improve their energy efficiency.
18. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) what is the current number of licensed and unlicensed tissue sellers in Singapore; (b) whether any increase in the number of unlicensed tissue sellers has been observed since 2020; (c) what efforts have been made by Government agencies to reach out to unlicensed tissue sellers who are eligible for Government support schemes; and (d) whether any enforcement efforts have been conducted against unlicensed tissue sellers.
19. **Miss Rachel Ong:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether a survey has been conducted on the impact of the charging for plastic bags at supermarkets in terms of how households bag their trash; (b) whether there has been an increase in the purchase of plastic garbage bags since the implementation of charges for such plastic bags; (c) if not currently tracked, whether this can be done; and (d) what is being done to support and educate households to reduce the use of plastic bags for bagging trash and its alternatives.
20. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) regarding the emergence of makeshift smoking corners in heartland areas, what are the measures being taken to balance the rights and health concerns of non-smokers, particularly those who live in densely populated residential areas; and (b) how does the National Environment Agency plan to manage these smoking corners to ensure public health and safety.
21. **Mr Gerald Giam Yeap Song:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether the Ministry measures the amount of food waste from large commercial and industrial food waste generators, including hotels, malls, food manufacturers, central kitchens, food caterers and food storage warehouses; (b) whether the amount of food waste has increased since 2021; (c) what legislative or other measures are in place to reduce the amount of avoidable food waste generated from these sources; and (d) how does the Ministry work with businesses and charities to distribute unexpired food to needy residents.
22. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment for markets and hawker centres managed by NEA, what has been the highest and lowest monthly rents that a non-subsidised hawker has had to pay over the past five years.
23. **Mr Melvin Yong Yik Chye:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment over the past five years and across the 119 markets and hawker centres managed by NEA, what is the average annual operating cost associated with running a hawker centre.
24. **Mr Ong Hua Han:** To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment how successful has the Recycle Right Campaign been in reducing contamination in recycling bins.
25. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) for each year in the past five years, what is the mean and median number of students handled by each of the roving Student Welfare Officers (SWOs); and (b) what is the mean and median number of students handled by each of the school-based SWOs.
26. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Education whether neuroscience-backed programmes can be introduced in schools to help students understand their thought patterns and learn to manage stress and uncertainty.

27. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) what is the current total number of (i) day activity centres and (ii) residential homes respectively, for adult persons with autism; (b) how many adult persons with autism are currently enrolled in such centres and homes; and (c) how many adult persons with autism are currently on waiting lists, awaiting enrolment in (i) day activity centres and (ii) residential homes respectively.
28. **Mr Ong Hua Han:** To ask the Minister for Social and Family Development (a) in each of the years from 2019 to 2023, what is the median age of persons with disabilities who have been successful in their Assistive Technology Fund (ATF) applications; and (b) whether the Ministry budgets for the ATF usage based on per capita monthly household income data.
29. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for Health in view of the recent incident where a former nurse was charged with stealing patients' bank card details for unauthorised transactions (a) what are the measures in place to protect patients' personal and financial data within healthcare institutions; and (b) what additional steps are being taken to enhance data security protocols and ensure strict compliance to prevent such incidents in the future.
30. **Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Minister for Health whether there will be a review of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act to ensure that those who need care and help are given the necessary help and support without affecting their overall well-being, employment and employability.
31. **Mr Sitoh Yih Pin:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what is the number of appeals received by HDB to waive the 15-month wait-out period to buy a HDB resale flat after disposing of a private property since the imposition of this rule; (b) what is the number of appeals that are successful; and (c) what are the reasons for allowing the successful appeals.
32. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how many local SMEs are impacted by the reduced Dependency Ratio Ceiling (DRC) for the construction sector from 1:7 to 1:5 from January 2024; (b) how much will the reduced DRCs impact the SMEs' project production timeline and cost; and (c) how is BCA educating owners of construction projects involving these SMEs, to factor into their budget the updated cost due to reduced DRCs so that worker safety is not compromised.
33. **Dr Wan Rizal:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what are the support measures to assist the over 400 rental households in Toa Payoh that are being relocated for redevelopment purposes; and (b) how do such redevelopments align with community stability and affordable housing.
34. **Mr Don Wee:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the BCA, in determining the quality attributes scoring for public sector project tenders, such as the proposed coastal development tender, can consider revising the requirement for foreign projects in its scoring method since local construction companies which have fewer foreign projects will be placed at default disadvantage when competing against foreign companies in bids for tender.
35. **Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the relevant agencies can expedite the setting up of a U-turn facility to ease vehicular traffic into HDB BTO Jurong West Jewel as there is currently no such facility within close proximity.
36. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for National Development when is the Urban Redevelopment Authority's set of Design Guidelines and Good Practice Guide for Creative Hoardings expected to be finalised and made publicly available.

37. **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) in each year of the last five years, what is the average number of complaints of nuisance against tenants of neighbouring units in HDB estates; (b) of these, what is the average number which involves foreign tenants; (c) what is the percentage of cases where penalties are meted out by HDB against such errant tenants; and (d) what is the range of actions and penalties imposed by HDB.
38. **Mr Chong Kee Hiong:** To ask the Minister for National Development with regard to the policy allowing seniors above 55 years old who are moving from a private property to a 4-room or smaller resale HDB flat to be exempted from the 15-month wait-out period (a) what is the number of seniors doing so in the last two years; (b) what has been the impact on the prices and turnover of 4-room resale HDB flats; and (c) whether there has been a spillover impact on the prices of 5-room resale HDB flats.
39. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information (a) whether there are any restrictions on the locations where movies rated NC16 and above can be screened; (b) if so, what is the rationale for such restrictions; and (c) whether the Ministry will consider removing such restrictions in light of the rise of online movie streaming services.
40. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information what safeguards and regulations are being put in place to tackle the issue of deepfake software being used in scam and fraud cases.
41. **Mr Christopher de Souza:** To ask the Minister for Communications and Information how is the Government helping the public to better understand artificial intelligence and its capabilities to build a population grounded in technological understanding so as to combat the threat of cybercrime and deepfake content.
42. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth whether there are any plans to support the Art Galleries Association Singapore with funding from the Government.
43. **Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth in each year of the last five years, how many non-Singapore citizens have (i) volunteered and (ii) been appointed grassroots leaders in the People's Association grassroots organisations, such as Residents' Committees and Residents' Networks.
44. **Mr Ong Hua Han:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) for each year from 2019 to 2023, what proportion of people who have used ActiveSG's inclusive swimming pools are persons with disabilities; and (b) whether there are plans to retrofit more swimming pools with ramps beyond the six swimming pools currently.
45. **Mr Ong Hua Han:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) whether ActiveSG keeps track of the number of persons with disabilities (PwDs) who visit inclusive gyms; and (b) given that ActiveSG plans to make all ActiveSG Gyms inclusive by 2026, what are the plans to increase usage of the gyms by PwDs.
46. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) what is the expected overall performance of Singapore's creative economy in 2023; and (b) what are some of the key considerations that will determine the growth prospects of Singapore's creative economy in 2024.
47. **Ms Usha Chandradas:** To ask the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (a) what is the dollar amount of the Cultural Medallion (CM) Fund entitlements that remain unutilised, by both living and deceased past winners of the CM; and (b) what are the reasons why such CM Fund entitlements remain unutilised.

48. **Mr Murali Pillai:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) for each of the past five years, how many migrant workers have sustained injuries whilst they were at their dormitories which are not covered by work injury insurance; and (b) whether the scope of the Work Injury Compensation Act 2019 may be reviewed to include injuries and death of migrant workers arising from accidents at dormitories so as to broaden the insurance coverage for the same.
49. **Ms See Jinli Jean:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry has data on the current number of locals and foreigners employed by registered businesses as pet groomers; (b) what are the requirements for these businesses to (i) undertake the professional development of groomers (ii) insure groomers for work-related liabilities and (iii) conduct proper inquiry in event of grooming incidents; and (c) whether the Ministry will consider introducing guidance to these businesses on providing a safe and healthy work environment for pet groomers.
50. **Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) in each year from 2021 to 2023, how many cases involving employers receiving kickbacks from migrant workers did the Ministry investigate; and (b) of these investigations, how many led to (i) stern warnings (ii) charges and (iii) successful prosecutions against the employers.
51. **Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis:** To ask the Minister for Manpower in each year of the last five years till date, what are the average (i) occupancy and (ii) monthly rental rates of new contracts signed for commercial dormitory beds at workers' dormitories.
52. **Mr Desmond Choo:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) whether the Ministry regulates the inclusion of non-compete clauses in employment contracts; and (b) whether the Ministry will consider issuing guidelines to employers and employees on the incorporation of non-compete clauses in employment contracts.
53. **Mr Yip Hon Weng:** To ask the Minister for Manpower following the recent layoffs by an e-commerce company which was not notified to the unions (a) what are the lessons learned that will require the Government, NTUC and employer bodies to review the tripartite relationship in today's economic environment; (b) what specific areas need to be strengthened; and (c) whether the Ministry should mandate all companies that have at least 10 workers to notify unions about any upcoming lay-offs.
54. **Mr Leong Mun Wai:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) why Bus Services 160 and 870 do not call at Bus Stop 28301 in front of Block 131 Jurong Gateway Road; and (b) whether these services can be amended to call at Bus Stop 28301 to provide more convenient access for commuters travelling from Jurong East.
55. **Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether there will be new and more regular bus services available for residents living in and within the vicinity of new HDB BTO Jurong West Jewel and Jurong West Crystal projects to connect to the nodes within Jurong West such as Boon Lay and Pioneer MRT stations, Boon Lay Bus Interchange, Boon Lay Market and Shopping Centre and Jurong West Hawker Centre.
56. **Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) what is the breakdown in the expenditure of \$40 million to extend the card-based ticketing (CBT) system which allows the continued use of EZ-Link and NETS FlashPay cards on public transportation; and (b) what are the projected total additional costs per year to maintain and run both the CBT and SimplyGo account-based ticketing systems in parallel.

- 57. Ms He Ting Ru:** To ask the Minister for Transport since the pilot of LTA's account-based ticketing system in 2017 (a) how many cases of feedback has been received by LTA in relation to the new system; and (b) how many times were concerns raised about the inability to view fare deductions and card balances at station fare gates and bus readers.
- 58. Mr Edward Chia Bing Hui:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) in light of the public's reaction towards the change in decision to transit to SimplyGo, what lessons have been learned from the initial roll-out plan; (b) whether the Ministry has engaged the public and evaluated feedback during the implementation of this policy; and (c) what steps are being taken to ensure that future policy changes in the transport sector will more effectively gauge public opinion and user experience from the outset.
- 59. Ms Yeo Wan Ling:** To ask the Minister for Transport (a) whether it is possible to code and provide real time fare deduction information on public transport fare readers in the use of SimplyGo EZ-Link cards; and (b) if not, why not.
- 60. Mr Ong Hua Han:** To ask the Minister for Transport whether LTA has studied on systems to reduce the height difference between the platform and train floor, which complement gap fillers to make the MRT system more accessible.
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