

**FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE
(SECOND SESSION)**

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2023**

No. 116

10.30 am

1

PRESENT:

Mr SPEAKER (Mr Seah Kian Peng (Marine Parade)).
Mr ANG WEI NENG (West Coast).
Mr CHAN CHUN SING (Tanjong Pagar), Minister for Education.
Ms USHA CHANDRADAS (Nominated Member)
Mr CHEE HONG TAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Transport.
Mr EDWARD CHIA BING HUI (Holland-Bukit Timah).
Mr DESMOND CHOO (Tampines).
Mr ERIC CHUA (Tanjong Pagar) Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Social and Family Development.
Mr KEITH CHUA (Nominated Member)
Mr CHUA KHENG WEE LOUIS (Sengkang).
Mr DARRYL DAVID (Ang Mo Kio).
Mr CHRISTOPHER DE SOUZA (Holland-Bukit Timah), Deputy Speaker.
Ms FOO MEE HAR (West Coast).
Ms GRACE FU HAI YIEN (Yuhua), Minister for Sustainability and the Environment.
Mr GAN KIM YONG (Chua Chu Kang), Minister for Trade and Industry.
Ms GAN SIOW HUANG (Marymount), Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower.
Mr GAN THIAM POH (Ang Mo Kio).
Mr GERALD GIAM YEAN SONG (Aljunied).
Mr DERRICK GOH (Nee Soon).
Ms HE TING RU (Sengkang).
Mr HENG CHEE HOW (Jalan Besar), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence.
Mr HENG SWEE KEAT (East Coast), Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies.
Mr SHAWN HUANG WEI ZHONG (Jurong).
Dr JANIL PUTHUCHEARY (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Health and Government Whip.
Dr AMY KHOR LEAN SUAN (Hong Kah North), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment and Ministry of Transport.
Dr KOH POH KOON (Tampines), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment.
Mr KWEK HIAN CHUAN HENRY (Kebun Baru).
Mr DESMOND LEE (West Coast), Minister for National Development and Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration.
Mr LEE HSIEN LOONG (Ang Mo Kio), Prime Minister.
Mr MARK LEE (Nominated Member)
Mr LEONG MUN WAI (Non-Constituency Member).
Mr LIANG ENG HWA (Bukit Panjang).
Mr LIM BIOW CHUAN (Mountbatten).
Assoc Prof JAMUS JEROME LIM (Sengkang).
Ms SYLVIA LIM (Aljunied).
Dr LIM WEE KIAK (Sembawang).

Mr MASAGOS ZULKIFLI B M M (Tampines), Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs.
Mr MUHAMAD FAISAL ABDUL MANAP (Aljunied).
Assoc Prof Dr MUHAMMAD FAISHAL IBRAHIM (Nee Soon), Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development.
Mr MURALI PILLAI (Bukit Batok).
Ms NADIA AHMAD SAMDIN (Ang Mo Kio).
Dr NG ENG HEN (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Minister for Defence.
Mr LOUIS NG KOK KWANG (Nee Soon).
Miss RACHEL ONG (West Coast).
Mr ONG HUA HAN (Nominated Member)
Mr ONG YE KUNG (Sembawang), Minister for Health.
Mr NEIL PAREKH NIMIL RAJNIKANT (Nominated Member)
Ms JOAN PEREIRA (Tanjong Pagar).
Ms DENISE PHUA LAY PENG (Jalan Besar).
Ms HAZEL POA (Non-Constituency Member).
Ms POH LI SAN (Sembawang).
Mr PRITAM SINGH (Aljunied), Leader of the Opposition.
Ms RAHAYU MAHZAM (Jurong), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Law.
Assoc Prof RAZWANA BEGUM ABDUL RAHIM (Nominated Member)
Mr SAKTIANDI SUPAAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh).
Ms SEE JINLI JEAN (Nominated Member)
Mr K SHANMUGAM (Nee Soon), Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law.
Mr SHARAEEL TAHA (Pasir Ris-Punggol).
Ms SIM ANN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of National Development and Deputy Government Whip.
Mr SITO YIH PIN (Potong Pasir).
Ms SUN XUELING (Punggol West), Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development.
Dr SYED HARUN ALHABSYI (Nominated Member)
Mr ALVIN TAN (Tanjong Pagar), Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Trade and Industry.
Ms CARRIE TAN (Nee Soon).
Mr DENNIS TAN LIP FONG (Hougang).
Mr DESMOND TAN (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office.
Mr TAN KIAT HOW (East Coast), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of National Development.
Ms JESSICA TAN SOON NEO (East Coast), Deputy Speaker.
Dr TAN WU MENG (Jurong).
Mr PATRICK TAY TECK GUAN (Pioneer).
Mr TEO CHEE HEAN (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security.
Mrs JOSEPHINE TEO (Jalan Besar), Minister for Communications and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs.
Mr RAJ JOSHUA THOMAS (Nominated Member)
Ms TIN PEI LING (MacPherson).
Mr VIKRAM NAIR (Sembawang).
Dr VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Dr WAN RIZAL (Jalan Besar).
Mr DON WEE (Chua Chu Kang).
Mr LAWRENCE WONG (Marsiling-Yew Tee), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance.
Mr XIE YAO QUAN (Jurong).
Mr ALEX YAM ZIMING (Marsiling-Yew Tee).
Ms YEO WAN LING (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Mr YIP HON WENG (Yio Chu Kang).
Mr MELVIN YONG YIK CHYE (Radin Mas).
Mr ZAQY MOHAMAD (Marsiling-Yew Tee), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Manpower and Deputy Leader of the House.
Mr ZHULKARNAIN ABDUL RAHIM (Chua Chu Kang).

ABSENT:

Mr BAEY YAM KENG (Tampines), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment and Ministry of Transport.
Miss CHERYL CHAN WEI LING (East Coast).
Mr CHONG KEE HIONG (Bishan-Toa Payoh).
Ms INDRANEE RAJAH (Tanjong Pagar), Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance, Second Minister for National Development and Leader of the House.
Mr S ISWARAN (West Coast), Minister for Transport and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations.
Ms LOW YEN LING (Chua Chu Kang), Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Trade and Industry.
Ms MARIAM JAAFAR (Sembawang).
Dr MOHAMAD MALIKI BIN OSMAN (East Coast), Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Mr MOHD FAHMI BIN ALIMAN (Marine Parade).
Ms NG LING LING (Ang Mo Kio).
Ms HANY SOH (Marsiling-Yew Tee).
Dr TAN SEE LENG (Marine Parade), Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry.
Mr EDWIN TONG CHUN FAI (Marine Parade), Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law.

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 Singapore Labour Foundation Annual Report 2022 – Presented on 7 November 2023 (S. 440 of 2023)

2 14 Questions for Oral Answer were answered during Question Time.

3 Stillbirths and Births (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill – "to amend the Registration of Births and Deaths Act 2021 in relation to stillbirths and births, to amend the Income Tax Act 1947 in relation to stillbirths, and to make consequential amendments to certain other Acts in relation to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act 2021" – presented by the Minister of State (Ms Sun Xueling), on behalf of the Minister for Home Affairs; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 39/2023].

4 Economic Expansion Incentives (Relief from Income Tax) (Amendment) Bill – read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill – (Minister of State (Mr Alvin Tan), on behalf of the Minister for Trade and Industry).

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 22 inclusive agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Bill reported, without amendment; read a third time.

5 Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill – read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill – (Senior Parliamentary Secretary, on behalf of the Minister for Law).

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 48 inclusive agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Bill reported, without amendment; read a third time.

6 Cost of Living Crisis – (Mr Pritam Singh) – Motion made, and Question proposed – "That this House calls on the Government to review its policies so as to lower cost of living pressures on Singaporeans and their families."

Amendments proposed:

- (1) In line 1, after the words "That this House" to insert the words "acknowledges that cost of living is a global concern, and";
- (2) In line 1, to delete "review its policies so as to" and insert "continue pursuing policies that together"; and
- (3) At the end of line 2, to add " , without undermining our fiscal sustainability and burdening future generations of Singaporeans". – (Mr Liang Eng Hwa);

Question proposed, "The Question is the amendments as moved by Mr Liang Eng Hwa."; Debate arising.

- 7 Exempted Business – (Deputy Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, "That the proceedings on the business set down on the Order Paper for today be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order No. 2."
- 8 Time Limit for Speeches – (Deputy 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 provisions of Standing Order No. 48(8) to remove the time limit in respect of Senior Minister of State Chee Hong Tat's speech."
- 9 Cost of Living Crisis – (Mr Pritam Singh) – Debate resumed on Question, "The Question is the amendments as moved by Mr Liang Eng Hwa."

Question, "That amendment number (1) be made.", put, and agreed to with the following Members dissenting:-

Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis (Sengkang)
Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song (Aljunied)
Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang)
Mr Leong Mun Wai (Non-Constituency Member)
Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim (Sengkang)
Ms Sylvia Lim (Aljunied)
Mr Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap (Aljunied)
Ms Hazel Poa (Non-Constituency Member)
Mr Pritam Singh (Aljunied)
Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong (Hougang)

Question, "That amendment number (2) be made.", put, and agreed to with the following Members dissenting:-

Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis (Sengkang)
Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song (Aljunied)
Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang)
Mr Leong Mun Wai (Non-Constituency Member)
Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim (Sengkang)
Ms Sylvia Lim (Aljunied)
Mr Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap (Aljunied)
Ms Hazel Poa (Non-Constituency Member)
Mr Pritam Singh (Aljunied)
Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong (Hougang)

Question, "That amendment number (3) be made.", put, and agreed to.

Original motion, as amended, put and agreed to with the following Members dissenting:-

Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis (Sengkang)
Mr Gerald Giam Yean Song (Aljunied)
Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang)
Mr Leong Mun Wai (Non-Constituency Member)
Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim (Sengkang)
Ms Sylvia Lim (Aljunied)
Mr Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap (Aljunied)
Ms Hazel Poa (Non-Constituency Member)

Mr Pritam Singh (Aljunied)
Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong (Hougang)

Resolved, "That this House acknowledges that cost of living is a global concern, and calls on the Government to continue pursuing policies that together lower cost of living pressures on Singaporeans and their families, without undermining our fiscal sustainability and burdening future generations of Singaporeans."

10 Adjournment – (Deputy Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, "That at its rising today, Parliament do stand adjourned to a date to be fixed."

11 Adjournment – (Deputy Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Parliament do now adjourn."; Debate arising.

On Question put – Resolved, "That Parliament do now adjourn."

Adjourned at 10.13 pm

SEAH KIAN PENG,
Speaker

MEMORANDUM

Parliament stands adjourned to a date to be fixed.
