

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE**

First Session

TUESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

No. 38

11.00 am

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PRESENT:

Mr SPEAKER (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin (Marine Parade)).

Mr ABDUL SAMAD (Nominated Member).

Ms JANET ANG (Nominated Member).

Mr ANG WEI NENG (West Coast).

Mr BAEY YAM KENG (Tampines), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport.

Mr CHAN CHUN SING (Tanjong Pagar), Minister for Education.

Mr MARK CHAY (Nominated Member).

Mr CHEE HONG TAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport.

Mr CHENG HSING YAO (Nominated Member).

Mr EDWARD CHIA BING HUI (Holland-Bukit Timah).

Mr CHONG KEE HIONG (Bishan-Toa Payoh).

Mr DESMOND CHOO (Tampines).

Mr ERIC CHUA (Tanjong Pagar) Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Social and Family Development.

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.

Prof HOON HIAN TECK (Nominated Member).

Mr SHAWN HUANG WEI ZHONG (Jurong).

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.

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 Health and Ministry of Manpower.

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 LEONG MUN WAI (Non-Constituency Member).

Mr LIM BIOW CHUAN (Mountbatten).

Assoc Prof JAMUS JEROME LIM (Sengkang).

Ms SYLVIA LIM (Aljunied).

Dr LIM WEE KIAK (Sembawang).

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).

Mr MASAGOS ZULKIFLI B M M (Tampines), Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs.

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).

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.

Ms NG LING LING (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr LOUIS NG KOK KWANG (Nee Soon).

Miss RACHEL ONG (West Coast).

Ms JOAN PEREIRA (Tanjong Pagar).

Mr LEON PERERA (Aljunied).

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), Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Health.

Mr SAKTIANDI SUPAAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh).

Mr SEAH KIAN PENG (Marine Parade).

Dr SHAHIRA ABDULLAH (Nominated Member).

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

Mr SHARAEL 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 H YIH PIN (Potong Pasir).

Ms HANY SOH (Marsiling-Yew Tee).

Ms SUN XUELING (Punggol West), Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social and Family Development.

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, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment.

Ms JESSICA TAN SOON NEO (East Coast), Deputy Speaker.

Mr TAN KIAT HOW (East Coast), Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of National Development.

Dr TAN SEE LENG (Marine Parade), Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry.

Dr TAN WU MENG (Jurong).

Dr TAN YIA SWAM (Nominated Member).

Mr PATRICK TAY TECK GUAN (Pioneer).

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

Mr THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM (Jurong), Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies.

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), 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:

Miss CHERYL CHAN WEI LING (East Coast).

Miss CHENG LI HUI (Tampines).

Prof KOH LIAN PIN (Nominated Member).

Mr LIANG ENG HWA (Bukit Panjang).

Mr ONG YE KUNG (Sembawang), Minister for Health.

Ms RAEESAH KHAN (Sengkang).

Mrs JOSEPHINE TEO (Jalan Besar), Minister for Communications and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs.

Mr RAJ JOSHUA THOMAS (Nominated Member).

Mr EDWIN TONG CHUN FAI (Marine Parade), Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law.

- 1 45 Questions for Oral Answer were answered during Question Time.
- 2 Courts (Civil and Criminal Justice) Reform Bill – (Second Minister for Law) – Question again proposed on the resumption of debate, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

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 for Law).

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 12 inclusive agreed to.

Clause 13:

Amendments made:

- (i) In page 22, by leaving out “ ” at the end of line 23; and
- (ii) In page 22, after line 23, by inserting —

“Summary dismissal of applications

238B.— (1) Any application may, without being set down for hearing, be summarily dismissed by a written order of the court, certifying that the court, having perused the application and any accompanying material, is satisfied that the application has been brought without any sufficient ground.

(2) Before summarily dismissing an application, the court —

- (a) must consider the applicant’s written submissions (if any); and
- (b) may, but is not required to, consider the respondent’s written submissions (if any).

(3) Where the court comprises more than one Judge, the decision of the court to dismiss the application summarily under subsection (1) can only be made by a unanimous decision of all the Judges sitting in the court.

(4) Notice of the dismissal must be served on the applicant.

(5) If, within 14 days after the service on the applicant of a notice of the dismissal of an application by the General Division of the High Court in the exercise of its appellate or revisionary jurisdiction or the Court of Appeal under subsection (1), the applicant gives to the Registrar of the Supreme Court —

- (a) notice of an application for permission to amend the application so as to raise a question of law; and
- (b) a certificate signed by an advocate specifying the question to be raised and undertaking to argue it,

the Chief Justice (in the case where the application is made to the Court of Appeal) or any Judge sitting in the General Division of the High Court (in the case where the application is made to the General Division of the High Court) may grant permission to the applicant to amend the application accordingly and restore the application for hearing.

(6) In this section —

“application” means any application under this Code and includes a criminal motion and an application under section 400 or 404, but does not include —

- (a) an appeal, an application for permission under section 394H(1), a review application or an application under section 397(1); or

(b) an application under section 417(1) for an order for review of detention;

“review application” has the meaning given by section 394F(1).” – (Minister for Law).

Clause 13, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 14 to 24 inclusive agreed to.

Clause 25:

Amendment made, in page 35, by leaving out line 27 to the end of line 13 in page 36, and inserting

—
 “29B.—(1) A District Judge sitting in a Family Court may, on his or her own motion, summarily dismiss any appeal made against a decision of the Registrar relating to civil or quasi criminal proceedings, if the District Judge is satisfied of any of the following:

(a) every issue in the appeal has already been decided by a Family Court or a higher court in an earlier matter in which the appellant was involved, and the appeal therefore has no merit;

(b) such conditions as may be prescribed by the Family Justice Rules are met.

(2) Before summarily dismissing any appeal under subsection (1), a District Judge sitting in a Family Court must —

(a) give the appellant a reasonable opportunity to show cause why the appeal should not be summarily dismissed; and

(b) consider any representations of the appellant.

(3) In this section, “appeal” includes part of an appeal.” – (Minister for Law).

Clause 25, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 26 to 229 inclusive agreed to.

Consequential amendments made:

(i) In page 22, line 3, by leaving out “section 238A”, and inserting “sections 238A and 238B”; and

(ii) In page 22, line 5, by leaving out “section:”, and inserting “sections:”.

Bill to be reported.

Bill reported, with amendments; read a third time.

3 COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Amendment No. 4) 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 for Law).

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Bill reported, without amendment; read a third time.

4 Securing Singaporeans' Jobs and Livelihoods – (Minister for Finance) – Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House:

- (a) acknowledges Singaporeans' anxieties about jobs and competition in a globalised and fast-changing economy;
- (b) affirms Singapore's need to stay open and connected to the world in order to grow and prosper;
- (c) supports Government actions to manage the population of foreign manpower, ensure fair treatment by employers, and invest in education and upskilling, to create more good jobs for Singaporeans;
- (d) calls on the Government to continue to update and improve its policies to secure the well-being and livelihoods of Singaporeans in an uncertain post-pandemic world; and
- (e) deplores attempts to spread misinformation about free trade agreements like the Singapore-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), stir up racism and xenophobia, and cause fear and anxiety amongst Singaporeans."

Foreign Talent Policy – (Mr Leong Mun Wai) – Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this Parliament calls upon the Government to take urgent and concrete action to address the widespread anxiety among Singaporeans on jobs and livelihoods caused by the foreign talent policy and the provisions on Movement of Natural Persons in some free trade agreements like the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement."

Pursuant to the resolution of the House made on 13 September 2021 for the motions on Securing Singaporeans' Jobs and Livelihoods and Foreign Talent Policy be taken together, and the debate on these motions and on any amendment proposed thereto be proceeded with simultaneously as though the debate were on a single motion, the House proceeded to debate the two motions simultaneously upon the Questions being proposed.

Amendments proposed to the motion on Securing Singaporeans' Jobs and Livelihoods:

- (1) in part (c), by deleting the word "supports" at the start of the sentence and replacing it with "calls for stronger";
- (2) by inserting a new part (f) with the words "calls on the Government to proactively release information on jobs and employment prospects of Singaporeans and the costs and benefits of free trade agreements and foreign worker policies, with a view to formulating better policies to ensure Singaporeans secure good jobs in Singapore and are not disadvantaged when seeking employment" at the end of the motion; and
- (3) by removing the word "and" at the end of part (d) and including the word "and" at the end of part (e). – (Mr Pritam Singh).

Question proposed, "The Question is the amendments as moved by Mr Pritam Singh."; Debate arising.

5 Exempted Business – (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."

6 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 provisions of Standing Order No. 48(8) to remove the time limit in respect of the Minister for Manpower's speech."

7 Securing Singaporeans' Jobs and Livelihoods – (Minister for Finance) – Debate resumed on Question, "That this House:

- (a) acknowledges Singaporeans' anxieties about jobs and competition in a globalised and fast-changing economy;

- (b) affirms Singapore's need to stay open and connected to the world in order to grow and prosper;
- (c) supports Government actions to manage the population of foreign manpower, ensure fair treatment by employers, and invest in education and upskilling, to create more good jobs for Singaporeans;
- (d) calls on the Government to continue to update and improve its policies to secure the well-being and livelihoods of Singaporeans in an uncertain post-pandemic world; and
- (e) deplores attempts to spread misinformation about free trade agreements like the Singapore-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), stir up racism and xenophobia, and cause fear and anxiety amongst Singaporeans."

Foreign Talent Policy – (Mr Leong Mun Wai) – Debate resumed on Question, "That this Parliament calls upon the Government to take urgent and concrete action to address the widespread anxiety among Singaporeans on jobs and livelihoods caused by the foreign talent policy and the provisions on Movement of Natural Persons in some free trade agreements like the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement."

Amendments proposed to the motion on Securing Singaporeans' Jobs and Livelihoods:

- (1) in part (c), by deleting the word "supports" at the start of the sentence and replacing it with "calls for stronger";
- (2) by inserting a new part (f) with the words "calls on the Government to proactively release information on jobs and employment prospects of Singaporeans and the costs and benefits of free trade agreements and foreign worker policies, with a view to formulating better policies to ensure Singaporeans secure good jobs in Singapore and are not disadvantaged when seeking employment" at the end of the motion; and
- (3) by removing the word "and" at the end of part (d) and including the word "and" at the end of part (e). – (Mr Pritam Singh).

Debate resumed on Question, "The Question is the amendments as moved by Mr Pritam Singh."

On amendment number (1), Question, "That the word proposed to be left out, be there left out.", put and negatived.

On amendment number (2), Question, "That the words proposed to be added, be there added.", put and negatived.

Consequential amendments in amendment number (3) not made.

- 8 Securing Singaporeans' Jobs and Livelihoods – (Minister for Finance) – Question on original motion, 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)
 Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim (Sengkang)
 Ms Sylvia Lim (Aljunied)
 Mr Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap (Aljunied)
 Mr Leon Perera (Aljunied)
 Mr Pritam Singh (Aljunied)
 Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong (Hougang)

Resolved, "That this House:

- (a) acknowledges Singaporeans' anxieties about jobs and competition in a globalised and fast-changing economy;

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- (b) affirms Singapore's need to stay open and connected to the world in order to grow and prosper;
 - (c) supports Government actions to manage the population of foreign manpower, ensure fair treatment by employers, and invest in education and upskilling, to create more good jobs for Singaporeans;
 - (d) calls on the Government to continue to update and improve its policies to secure the well-being and livelihoods of Singaporeans in an uncertain post-pandemic world; and
 - (e) deplores attempts to spread misinformation about free trade agreements like the Singapore-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), stir up racism and xenophobia, and cause fear and anxiety amongst Singaporeans."
- 9 Foreign Talent Policy – (Mr Leong Mun Wai) – On Question put and negatived.
- 10 Adjournment – (Leader of the House) – Resolved, "That Parliament do now adjourn to a date to be fixed."

Adjourned at 12.33 am on 15 September 2021

TAN CHUAN-JIN,
Speaker

MEMORANDUM

Parliament stands adjourned to a date to be fixed.
