

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER
AT THE SITTING OF 4 APRIL 2022**

Honourable Members,

2 In line with the announcement by the Government on the 24th of March 2022 on making a decisive step towards living with COVID-19, revised Safe Management Measures will be implemented in Parliament from today, the 4th of April.

3 All Members are now seated within the Chamber, on the same floor. This marks the first time that Members in the 14th Parliament, which opened on 24th August 2020, are able to conduct parliamentary proceedings with all Members seated on the same floor. And I have to admit that I am very pleased to see this happen.

4 I thank all Members, especially Members who have had to be seated a floor away previously, for your forbearance as we maintain our vigilance and stand united in battling COVID-19 together.

5 We have indeed come a long way, but we know there is still some way to go in the journey ahead. Thus, the current seating arrangement in the Chamber is still based on Members being separated into two groups. Similarly, Members will also take your breaks in separate break rooms, according to the group you are in – although we have mixed the groups so that you can make new friends.

6 Within Parliament House, Members will remain masked at all times, except when asking questions and making speeches in the Chamber. Members seated in the second and third rows will now be able to speak, without their masks, from the rostrums in the second row or from the microphones right in front of your seats.

7 The seats in the Speaker's Gallery, right across from me, have been set aside for Members who are close contacts of COVID cases, but who have tested negative for COVID. And there is a separate rostrum for such Members seated in the Speaker's Gallery.

8 The Public Galleries in Level 3 will now be open to members of the public who wish to follow the proceedings in Parliament House. But as always, the livestream of parliamentary proceedings is available for the public to watch at their own convenience and from anywhere.

9 Here in Parliament, we will continue to abide by the latest public health advisories and make adjustments according to the prevailing situation.

10 Honourable Members, we have reached a milestone in our fight against COVID-19 and we can take heart that in this House, we have remained steadfast in carrying out our duties as parliamentarians, with deep commitment, even in the face of a crisis. We did not let the virus slow us down and we soldiered on to complete the parliamentary businesses before us.

11 This sense of commitment and solidarity with one another and with Singaporeans must remain strong, as we move into the next phase of fresh challenges, but also, of opportunities.

Thank you.
