



VOTE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOMORROW, TODAY.

MANIFESTO 2015

## OUR PLEDGE TO YOU



It has been our firm belief that FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY can go hand in hand.

Singapore is not a corporation and its people not simply workers who are expendable or replaceable.

We aim to eventually lead and nurture Singapore to become a country with both economic and social victories.

To do so will require a real reform in our system, driven by our desire to:

**RETURN POWER TO THE PEOPLE.**

**BUILD A MORE TRANSPARENT, HUMANE,  
AND FAIRER SOCIETY**

**RESCUE SINGAPORE'S OUTDATED  
ECONOMIC SYSTEM**

## TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Establish what Singapore's total assets and liabilities are including physical assets and holdings of land. The present Statement of Assets and Liabilities is so vague as to be meaningless. We suspect there to be substantial hidden assets that are not included which would be a Constitutional breach.
2. Increase disclosure of the accounts of GIC and Temasek. Committee to examine possible privatisation of GIC and Temasek with distribution of shares to Singapore citizens. This can be coupled with the retention of a "golden share" in government hands.
3. Sell off or distribution of shares to Singaporeans of GLCs where state ownership is incompatible with our goal of encouraging entrepreneurship and preventing unfair competition.
4. Increase greater scrutiny of Government funds where we suspect billions of dollars have been squandered or worse without proper accountability. These include the National Productivity Fund and the National Research Fund which both come under the Prime Minister.
5. Set up an independent commission to appoint key office holders involved in checks and balances such as the Director of CPIB, the Auditor General and the Accountant General.

## ECONOMIC POLICY

1. Introduce minimum wage with exemptions for older workers and lower minimum for younger workers.
2. Cap foreign workers numbers and auction the right to work here. Total numbers can then be regulated in line with economic conditions and so as to keep wages growing in line with productivity growth for a fairer and more equitable society.
3. Reorientate economy away from excessive saving and towards consumption and domestic investment. Reduction in foreign investment by SWFs where investments can either be expropriated or lost due to market or fraud.
4. Maintain corporate and personal tax regime that favours investment or economic growth while cutting regressive taxes and charges on the poorest sections of the population.
5. Restrict investments by Town Councils to prevent them speculating with residents' monies.
6. Maintain infrastructure spending so as to ensure that Singapore maintains its attractiveness as a destination for foreign investment.
7. Examine competition policy with a view to strengthening it and making it more pro-consumer if necessary.
8. Increase investment in green and energy-saving technologies beyond current plans to target gap between venture capital stage and commercial production.
9. Increase transparency of HDB accounts and examination of conflict of interest in and anti-competitive nature of Government's position as major landowner through its powers of acquisition and its position as a property developer through the HDB.
10. Allowing Singapore citizens to own the freehold of their HDB so they can benefit from rise in land values and take responsibility for managing their own estates.
11. Partial privatization of CPF with individuals given much more freedom over how much to save and where they invest it with private pension providers competing directly with CPF. CPF also free to seek out best returns by investing its money with other private AAA and AA rated investments. Option for everyone of receiving back all their CPF at 55.

## DEFENCE AND HOMELAND SECURITY

1. Maintain strong national defence through continued investments in new weapons systems and technologies.
2. Develop and purchase advanced combat systems involving use of robots as much as possible to reduce if not wholly eliminate the need for combat troops on the ground, e.g. success of US Predator drones in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
3. Reduction of national service to one year with aim of moving entirely to professional army. Absurd that PAP says Singapore needs a total force including NS men and reserves of several hundred thousand men when US maintains global supremacy with an army of around 400,000 personnel.
4. Look at including women to do some form of national service to reduce the economic burden on men and to end unfair discrimination.
5. Raise NS pay to market levels at least minimum wage.
6. Stop using NS men to provide cheap labour for police and security duties unless they are properly remunerated.
7. Improve efficiency and reduce duplication and waste in defence spending.
8. Abolition of ISA (leftover from colonial rule) to be replaced with new powers focusing on Singapore specific current and projected future terrorist threats. ISD to be renamed and focused on countering external security threats and terrorism.



## JUDICIAL AND LAW REFORM

1. Independent commission to appoint judiciary and decide on promotions
2. Judges not to be removed or demoted on executive prerogative.
3. Reform outmoded libel laws to prevent them being used to silence political dissent through caps on damages awarded.
4. Moratorium on death penalty not just for drug trafficking with view to eventual abolition and replacement by whole life imprisonment.
5. Abolish corporal punishment which is unworthy of a civilised society.
6. Reinstate trial by jury for serious criminal offences.
7. Provide state-funded legal aid for criminal cases if defendants are unable to afford a lawyer.
8. Introduce safeguards such as requirement to video interviews or arrests and provide immediate access to a lawyer.
9. Strengthen the penalties for sexual offences including the introduction of a sex offenders register to protect juveniles and the vulnerable.
10. Extend the protections of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to all those under 18 from 16 currently.



## FOREIGN POLICY

1. Continue liberal foreign trade and investment regime.
2. Establish partnerships with strategic neighbours rather than rivalry.
3. Work towards regional economic integration while retaining control over immigration and entry of cheap labour from neighbouring countries to compete with Singaporeans.

## EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

1. Enact discrimination laws to prevent discrimination in employment on grounds of race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation. Companies will have to show why particular language skills are a necessary part of the job rather than using this as a means to discriminate.
2. Introduce 'stepped' minimum wage - exempt older workers and lower minimum for younger workers.
3. Force those taking up PR and citizenship to do NS or pay a special tax.
4. Continue investments in worker retraining and skills upgrading but careful examination of existing schemes to see that these are not merely a cheap rebranding exercise or to make up for deficiencies in educational system, e.g. poor literacy performance.
5. Mothers back-to-work specific training scheme for women away from the work place in excess of two years. Free or means- tested after-school care in after school and homework clubs to help working mothers in recognition of the decline of the extended family network.

## EDUCATION

1. Education to be given a higher priority in order to reduce dependence on imported skills and to compete with Asian and other competitor nations.
2. Universal free and compulsory education to secondary level.
3. Invest more in education particularly at the pre-school and primary level.
4. Universal free pre-school education without parents having to rely on religious or political affiliated kindergartens as at present.
5. Reduction in class sizes and increase in hours at school daily.
6. Improve teacher training.
7. Reduction of labelling and streaming too early in children's school careers with more emphasis on raising standards generally rather than catering to an elite who may already enjoy significant advantages in wealth or resources.
8. Admission to so-called elite schools to be open to wider population and more meritocratic.
9. All tutors and classes external to schools to be licensed and graded.
10. Early education to focus on creating culture of creative and independent thought. Study skills and learner independence to be taught from an early age. Encouragement of ideas and vision as opposed to rote learning and memorisation of facts in the early years. 'Play' to be seen as a valuable learning and socialisation tool rather than wasted time.
11. Expansion of tertiary education in line with rest of OECD.
12. Revamping of scholarship system so that funds are directed to deserving students from lower income families rather than the way in which it is now given to the children of the elite to create a permanent aristocracy.

## SOCIAL POLICY

1. Old age pension of \$500 per month paid to all seniors over the age of 65.
2. Child Benefit of \$300 per month per child up to the age of 18 paid directly to the mother.
3. Greater aid to those with permanent disabilities and to carers looking after children or adults with special needs.
4. Abolition of any link between benefits and sterilisation for the poor (as seen in the current HOPE scheme) which represents an attempt to introduce discredited eugenics policies by the back door. Instead emphasis on education and providing work opportunities for mothers from low income groups to encourage family planning.
5. Set up and appoint an Equal Opportunity Commission so that no group is left behind.
6. Disability opportunity and equality of access provision. Disabled access to public buildings including recreational facilities to be made mandatory by law.
7. Public Housing- remove restrictions on minority groups to buy and sell HDB flats which is tantamount to feudalism and hinders the development of a genuine Singapore identity.



## HEALTH

1. Extend the current Medishield Life scheme to offer more generous coverage, particularly in GP and polyclinic visits. Cover those with chronic conditions completely.
2. Abolish Medishield Life premiums for over 65s
3. Integrate Medishield Life, Medisave and Medifund to create a comprehensive national health insurance coverage in which no one is left uncovered for serious or chronic conditions.
4. Continue to develop Singapore as a regional and global health centre.

## TRANSPORT

1. Examine rationale for mixed private-public ownership when taxpayer is paying most of the costs of the infrastructure.
2. Lower fares for special groups such as disabled, senior citizens and children paid for by slightly higher fares for tourists and non citizens.
3. Introduce competition as much as possible with a view to lowering cost and improving service quality.
4. Re-examine current basis of COE system and ERP to see whether it is efficiently reducing congestion.
5. Accelerate introduction of new technologies such as driverless cars and electric vehicles with a view to moving away from car ownership and treating cars.

## GREEN AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

1. Much more to be done to encourage consumers to adopt solar energy and batteries to store energy that can be sold back to the grid.
2. Tighten greenhouse gas emissions and play a leading regional role.
3. Look to become a regional leader in new green technologies and in stopping other threats to the the environment through much greater recycling particularly of plastics.
4. Cohesive strategy on private car ownership rather than a mixed message. Car clubs and car sharing schemes.
5. Encouragement of electric car usage with linkage to green industrial strategy.



## GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM

1. New properly Independent commission to examine Ministerial salaries and ensure that in future pay is much more performance-oriented; that excessive reward are not given for easily achievable targets. At present, part of ministerial pay is related purely to economic growth which may explain why Singapore has had several years of high economic growth coupled with declining productivity. In future may allow public a referendum on ministerial pay increases. It is absurd that the PM and Ministers are being paid four or five times salaries of other world leaders when the job is essentially one of city mayor.
2. Remove oppressive restrictions on political parties.
3. Reduce election deposits to \$1000 to encourage greater political participation and a competition of ideas.
4. Extend election campaigning period to three weeks.
5. Remove the Elections Department from the Prime Minister's Office and entrench its status as an independent commission.
6. Remove grassroots organisations from the government's control.
7. Introduce a new layer of local government in the form of directly elected Town Councils so as to stop the proper function of an MP from being diverted from acting as a check on the Government to being merely an estate manager.
- 8.
9. Reduce number of redundant ministerial appointments.
10. Abolish the requirement for Presidential candidates to be vetted by a special Parliamentary committee.
11. Abolish GRCs and return to single wards.
12. Abolish NMP system whose aim is to confuse the electorate and seemingly undercut the need for a democratically elected opposition.
13. Reform the Civil Service to decouple it from the Government and ruling party.
14. Restore power to Parliament in matters such as spending of reserves and away from unelected or indirectly elected officials such as the president.
15. Changes to the constitution to be put to a referendum.
16. Introduce legislation to require parties to field more female candidates with target of at least 40% female representation at all levels.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

1. Restore rights of freedom of expression, assembly and association.
2. Reform of defamation laws to make it clear that Government departments cannot sue private individuals for defamation.
3. Ministers who wish to undertake private actions for defamation must step down from office or wait until they leave office.
4. Government not allowed to use Protection from Harassment laws to try and muzzle criticism.
5. Freedom of Information Act with National Security safeguards.
6. Break-up SPH monopoly and liberalize media licensing to ensure right to freedom of expression and freedom to information.
7. Liberalise laws under Films Act.
8. Liberalise censorship laws with regard to political expression.

VOTE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOMORROW, TODAY.



Tel: +65 6534 9641 Fax: +65 6534 9640 Email: [info@reform.sg](mailto:info@reform.sg)  
18A Smith Street, Singapore 058932