

FUTURE CHALLENGES Preparing Singapore for the new 'norm'

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#### HELPING OUR UI.NERABI.E

Assoc. Prof. Faishal reflects on his work in MOE and MSF



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## )义顺情缘 Rangkaian Nee Soon நீ சூன் இணைப்பு n Lj

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# Nee Soon Fights Zika



In early August, Singapore reported the first locally transmitted case of Zika in Aljunied Crescent. In the week that followed, the case count climbed rapidly. 242 cases were found, mostly in the Aljunied Crescent/Sims Drive cluster. Three cases were openly linked to Nee Soon GRC - one patient is serving his national service in Khatib Camp, one lives at Yishun St 81 and one lives at Tagore Avenue in Kebun Baru.

#### Singapore had been preparing for Zika even before it hit our shores. Within a week, we managed to:

- Give Singaporeans timely information on the disease and spread
- Fog affected areas
- Unveil the fastest way to test for Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya in the world
- Determine that this is probably a local strain, meaning, it's • less likely to cause birth abnormalities like in Brazil, and locals are more likely to be immune
- Spread awareness through house visits and community events

The World Health Organisation called Singapore's management of Zika 'a global role model'.



We at the Town Council also swung into action immediately, even before any cases were found in Nee Soon:

- Conservancy contractors checked and oiled drains
- Cleaners asked to look out for mosquito breeding grounds
- Put up Zika posters in liftcars
- Arranged fogging for all public areas
- Sent letters to all residents about Zika and fogging



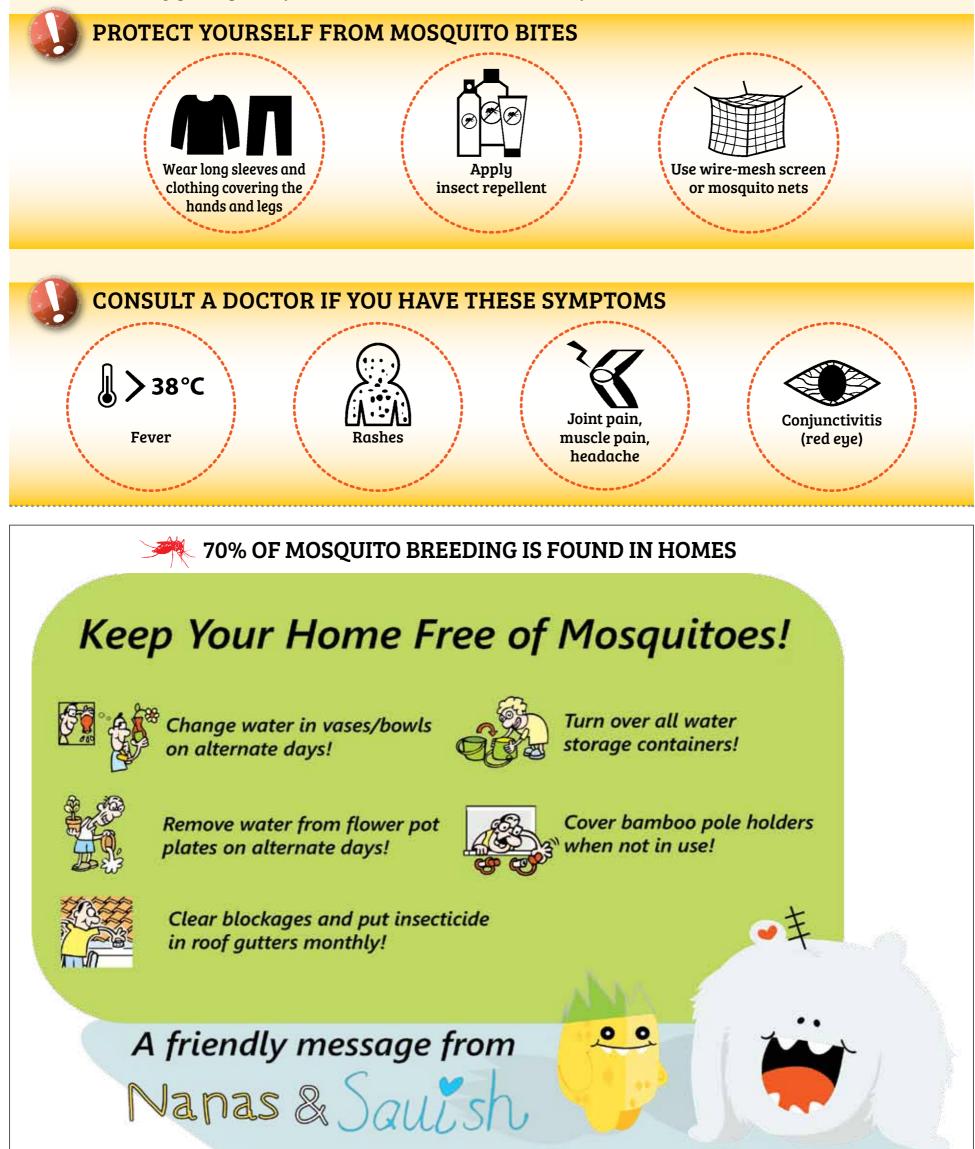
On 5 September, Minister of Health Mr Gan Kim Yong said it is very difficult to totally eradicate Zika from Singapore, as the Aedes mosquito which carries the virus is native to Singapore. However, the local patients all recovered within a day or two. To manage Zika in the long term,

the Ministry will subsidise tests at public healthcare institutions for all Singaporeans who need them.



#### FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

- The United States Centers for Disease Control reported that 98% of pregnant women with Zika will give birth to normal babies.
- The strain in Singapore is probably a Southeast Asian strain, i.e. it's less likely to cause birth abnormalities like in Brazil.



## Terrorists Plot Attacks Against Singapore

The authorities have received intelligence of terrorist plots against Singapore, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong revealed in his National Day Rally speech on Aug 21.

He said that the authorities have quietly acted on the information. They stepped up patrols and increased protection for major events and for prominent premises. They have also shifted and rescheduled certain events because of these threats.

He stressed on the threats from terrorists in the region and in Singapore. Terror groups are active in the region. Although authorities cracked down on them, some cells managed to evade the dragnet and launch attacks. Four were killed in an attack in downtown Jakarta in January, and Malaysia suffered a grenade attack in June.

The Government has also arrested a dozen radicalised Singaporeans. A few were prepared to mount attacks in Singapore, including one who planned to kill the President or Prime Minister. "We continue to pick up a steady trickle of such people, one or two a month," he said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs assesses that it's not a matter of 'if' Singapore will be attacked, but 'when'. Flip to the next page to read about how we can stay alert, united and strong against such attacks.

## Known Terrorist Plots Against Singapore

#### • Rocket attack on Marina Bay

Six Batam terrorists were planning this together with a Syrian-based Indonesian ISIS militant. Batam authorities arrested them this August.

#### • Killing President or Prime Minister

Radicalised locals arrested recently were plotting to kill the President or Prime Minister.

#### • Yishun MRT Station

A Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) cell in Singapore planned to target Yishun MRT Station.

In 1999, a member of the Singapore cell travelled to Afghanistan and presented the plan to Al Qaeda's leaders. It was nearly given the go-ahead.

#### • Changi Airport, Causeway, Embassies, etc.

The same cell surveyed other potential targets including water pipelines at the Causeway, the Ministry of Defence, and U.S., U.K. and Israeli embassies in Singapore. They had access to four tonnes of explosives. They also planned to hijack an airliner and crash it into Changi Airport.

Our government uncovered the plot in December 2001, just before the attacks were supposed to happen.

We have launched a national programme known as 'SGSecure'. It will sensitise, organise, train, and exercise Singaporeans to better protect themselves against terrorist attacks.

- Be vigilant. Look out for suspicious activities or behaviours in your community.
- Be alert to packages or objects that are left behind. Do not touch the item. Inform security officer or the police immediately.

#### In the rare event of a FIREARMS or WEAPONS attack:

RUN	HIDE	TELL
When it is safe to do so.	If you can't run.	Dial 999 when safe. If you can't talk, SMS 71999. Give your location and information about the attackers.
		You can also send more information through i-Witness on the Police@SG application.









Major attacks around the world contributed to rising intolerance towards certain racial or religious groups. This can create fault lines which threaten our social fabric.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Minister for Home Affairs, K. Shanmugam have cautioned us against the perils of a divided society:

"What we enjoy today is not a natural thing. It does not just happen and fall from Heaven. It was an act of will which we have sustained over many decades because our pioneers knew that for us to survive as a nation, we could not be a divided society."

**TAY STRONG** 

- Lee Hsien Loong, 2015 Prime Minister "The ultimate aim of terrorism is to create sharp and violent divisions between 'us' and 'them'. If we remain resolutely 'us', one united people, regardless of race, language or religion, no force can divide us, and terrorism will be defeated."

> - K.Shanmugam, 2016 Minister for Home Affairs

#### **BE COHESIVE – BUILD STRONG TIES**

Get to know friends from another race or religion

Respect and appreciate our racial, religious and cultural diversity

Take part in inter-racial and inter-religious activities that promote more understanding and cohesion

### Towards A Community Of Prepared Residents



Gunshots cracked into the air, seconds before two masked gunmen charged into a heartland coffee shop. Pandemonium erupted as people scurried away. Four people who reacted hesitantly were held hostage at gunpoint by their assailants.

A man *ran* for cover, *hid* himself safely behind a pillar and *told* the police via an SMS to 71999.

An Emergency Response Team from the Singapore Police Force, specially trained in counter-assault skills, then arrived to engage the gunmen and neutralise the situation. First-aid measures such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillators (AED) were performed on a rescued hostage who had a cardiac arrest.

On 28 May 2016, residents at Chong Pang City Amphitheatre saw a terrorist attack simulation at the Emergency Preparedness (EP) Day event. They would later learn 'The Triangle of Life' skills, such as CPR, AED, first-aid and usage of the fire extinguisher.



Grassroots Adviser Minister K. Shanmugam said, "We cannot let the terrorists or anyone divide us as a society. Therefore, we need to be prepared for an attack, both in terms of how you respond when an attack takes place and be prepared after the attack. Both are extremely important. We need both the skills on what to do and community cohesiveness."

Mdm Tan Siew Hong, 58, said that she learnt the proper way to dress a wound. "It is crucial to stop bleeding before medical aid arrives. This can be a matter of life and death, especially if the injury sustained is serious," she remarked.

Mdm Samaniah Binte Amat, 65, welcomed the EP Day. "I now know exactly how to react in an emergency. I can also help others in need with these life-saving skills," she commented.

Chong Pang is the first of six neighbourhoods to launch the EP Day event between May and October this year. Residents in all 89 constituencies will go through the drills within the next two years.





#### 保持警惕 • 团结一致 • 坚强不屈 •



近期揭发针对新加坡的恐怖袭击计谋让大家意识到,没有一个国家能免受恐怖主义的威胁。我们的考量不再是恐怖袭击"会不会" 发生, 而是袭击"什么时候"发生。因此, 我国推出了全国性的反恐计划"全国保家安民计划"(SG Secure)。计划将提高国人对 恐怖袭击的意识、组织和训练国人面对恐怖袭击改怎么做,以及让国人参与反恐演习,让国人能够更好地保护自己。

#### 逃跑、躲藏、报警

#### 遇到突如其来的持枪或武器袭击事件时

- ▶ 如果可以,逃离现场。
- ▶ 如果情况不允许,就躲起来。
- ▶ 如果可以,报警求救(电话:999)。如果不方便说话, 就发短信至71999。报警和发短信时,请提供您的所在位置。 和有关袭击者的详情。
- ▶ 您也可通过警方的应用程序Police@SG中的i-Witness发送更多 信息。

#### 凝聚彼此情感,建立坚固联系

- 多认识其他种族或宗教的朋友。
- ▶ 尊重我们社会的多元种族、 宗教和文化。
- ▶ 参与跨种族和跨宗教的活动。



#### • KEKAL BERWASPADA • KEKAL BERSATU • KEKAL TEGUH •

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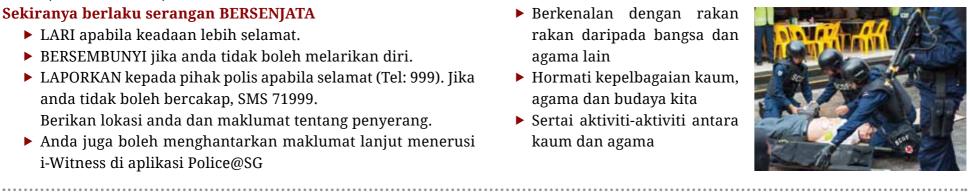
Pendedahan tentang plot pengganas terhadap Singapura baru-baru ini telah mencetuskan lagi keprihatinan orang ramai bahawa tiada negara yang selamat sepenuhnya; persoalannya bukanlah 'jika' tetapi 'apabila'. Sebagai tindak balas, satu program negara yang dikenali sebagai 'SGSecure' telah dilancarkan. Ia akan menyusun, melatih, serta memupuk kesedaran yang lebih tinggi pada rakyat Singapura supaya mereka lebih berupaya melindungi diri mereka daripada serangan pengganas.

#### LARI, SEMBUNYI, LAPORKAN

- Sekiranya berlaku serangan BERSENJATA
  - LARI apabila keadaan lebih selamat.
  - **•** BERSEMBUNYI jika anda tidak boleh melarikan diri.
  - LAPORKAN kepada pihak polis apabila selamat (Tel: 999). Jika anda tidak boleh bercakap, SMS 71999.
  - Berikan lokasi anda dan maklumat tentang penyerang.
  - Anda juga boleh menghantarkan maklumat lanjut menerusi i-Witness di aplikasi Police@SG

#### **BERSATU PADU - BINA HUBUNGAN YANG KUKUH**

- Berkenalan dengan rakan rakan daripada bangsa dan agama lain
- Hormati kepelbagaian kaum, agama dan budaya kita
- Sertai aktiviti-aktiviti antara kaum dan agama



#### விழிப்பாக இருப்போம் - ஒற்றுமையாக இருப்போம் - தைரியமாக இருப்போம்

சிங்கப்பூருக்கு எதிராக சமீபத்தில் நடத்த திட்டமிடப்பட்ட பயங்கரவாதத் தாக்குதலானது, எந்த நாடும் பயங்கரவாதத் தாக்குதலில் இருந்து முழுமையாகத் தப்பிக்க முடியாது என்பதைப் புரியவைக்கிறது. அப்படி ஒன்று நடந்தால் என்பது கேள்வி அல்ல. 'எப்போது' என்பதுதான் கேள்வி. அதைச் சாமளிக்க 'sGSecure' என்றழைக்கப்படும் ஒரு தேசியத் திட்டம துவக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. பயங்கரவாதத் தாக்குதலில் இருந்து தங்களை நன்றாகப் பாதுகாத்துக்கொள்ள இது சிங்கப்பூரர்களுக்கு உணர்திறணை அளிக்கும், திட்டமிடச் செய்யும் மற்றும் பயிற்சியளிக்கும்.

#### ஒடுங்கள், மறைந்துகொள்ளுங்கள், தகவல் தெரிவியுங்கள்

#### துப்பாக்கிகள் மற்றும் ஆயுதங்களால் தாக்கப்படும் அரிய நிகழ்வில

- 🕨 பாதுகாப்பானது எனில், ஓடுங்கள்.
- உங்களால் ஓட முடியாவிட்டால், மறைந்துகொள்ளுங்கள்.
- 🕨 பாதுகாப்பாக இருக்கும் போது, காவல்துறையிடம் தகவல் தெரிவியுங்கள் (தொலைபேசி: 999). உங்களால் பேச முடியாவிட்டால், 71999 என்ற எண்ணுக்குக் குறுஞ்செய்தி அனுப்புங்கள். நீங்கள் இருக்கும் இடத்தையும், தாக்குபவர்கள் குறித்தும் தகவல் தெரிவியுங்கள்.
- ▶ நீங்கள் Police@SG என்ற செயலியில் உள்ள i-Witness வாயிலாகவும் மேல் தகவல்களை அனுப்பலாம்

#### ஒற்றுமையாக இருப்போம் - வலிமையான உறவுகளை வளர்த்துக்கொள்வோம்

- 🕨 வேறொரு இனம் அல்லது சமயத்தைச் சார்ந்த நண்பர்களை அறிந்து வைத்துக்கொள்வோம்
- நமது இனம், சமயம் மற்றும் கலாசாரப் பன்முகத்தன்மைக்கு மதிப்பளிப்போம்
- 🕨 பல்வேறு இன மற்றும் சமய நடவடிக்கைகளில் பங்கேற்போம்

# Making Singapore FUTURE-READY

As Singapore enters into a future shaped by waves of disruptions, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong outlined his plans to brace for the new challenges. Delivering the National Day Rally speech at the ITE College Central in Ang Mo Kio on 21 August, PM Lee touched on the economy, ElderShield, foreign relations, social cohesion, elected presidency, leadership succession and infrastructure developments.

#### 让新加坡成功迈向未来

在新加坡迈向未来的同时,也面临许多不稳定因素的挑战。李显龙总理于8月21日,在位于宏茂桥的工艺教育中区学院举行的国庆群众大会 演讲时,就勾勒出如何面对这些新挑战的计划大纲。其中他就提到了新加坡的经济、乐龄健保、外交关系、社会凝聚力、民选总统制度、 领导层交接,以及基础设施发展等课题。

#### Menjadikan Singapura Bersedia untuk Masa Hadapan

Sambil Singapura memasuki masa hadapan yang dibentuk oleh gelombang-gelombang gangguan, Perdana Menteri Lee Hsien Loong menggariskan rancangannya untuk mempersiapkan rakyat menghadapi cabaran-cabaran baru. Menyampaikan ucapan Rapat Hari Kebangsaan di ITE College Central di Ang Mo Kio pada 21 Ogos, PM Lee telah menyentuh tentang ekonomi, ElderShield, hubungan luar negeri, perpaduan sosial, presiden yang dipilih, penggantian kepimpinan dan pembangunan infrastruktur.

#### சிங்கப்பூரை எதிர்காலத்திற்காகத் தயார்ப்படுத்துதல்

பல்வேறு வகையான குறுக்கீடுகள் நிறைந்த ஒரு எதிர்காலத்திற்குள் சிங்கப்பூர் அடியெடுத்து வைப்பதால், புதிய சவால்களை ஆற்றலுடன் எதிர்கொள்வதற்கான தனது திட்டங்களை நமது பிரதம மந்திரி திரு லீ சியன் லூங் அவர்கள் வரையறுத்துள்ளார். 21 ஆகஸ்டு அன்று அங் மோ கியோவில் உள்ள தொழில்நுட்பக் கல்விக் கழகக் (ITE) கல்லூரி மையத்தில் தனது தேசிய தினக் கூட்ட உரையை வழங்கும் போது, நமது பிரதம மந்திரி திரு லீ அவர்கள் நமது பொருளாதாரம், எல்டர்ீல்டு, வெளிநாட்டுத் தொடர்புகள், சமூக ஒற்றுமை, தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட அதிபர் முறை, தலைமைத்துவ மரபுத் தொடர்ச்சி மற்றும் உள்கட்டமைப்பு மேம்பாடுகள் ஆகியவை குறித்துப் பேசினார்.



#### **Economy**

The 'new normal' will be full of disruptions brought about by technological change. PM Lee stated that the Committee on the Future Economy (CFE) will prepare the country for the impending uncertainties:

- Help companies build new capabilities in areas such as digital space
- Help small and medium-sized enterprises compete
- Promote entrepreneurship
- Equip students with cross-disciplinary skills, upgrade, and deepen existing workers' skills
- Help retrenched workers ease into new careers



#### **ElderShield Review**

ElderShield, a long-term disability insurance plan, will be enhanced to cover more people and provide better protection at affordable rates. Those with severe disabilities can expect to receive monthly cash payouts for a longer period of time.



#### **Social Cohesion**

Asatizah Recognition Scheme, a scheme which endorses Islamic religious teachers in Singapore, will be made mandatory from 1 January 2017.

PM Lee reiterated on the importance of preparing ourselves well before a terrorist attack happens at our doorstep. He said, "Prepare ourselves to build trust, to strengthen bonds, to maintain and expand our common space, so that we instinctively feel one people."



#### **Foreign Relations**

Singapore has to uphold its own independent and considered stance, while maintaining good relationships with Malaysia, Indonesia, United States and China. This is important as bilateral ties with these countries are important for the Asia-Pacific region, in terms of trade, investment, security and stability.



#### **Elected Presidency**

Special provisions will be introduced to ensure a minority president from time to time, "to represent what we feel about Singapore, and our ideal of a multiracial society", PM Lee said.

Other changes slated to be debated are raising the eligibility criteria for candidates and strengthening the Council of Presidential Advisers (CPA).



#### **Leadership Succession**

PM Lee asserted that building leadership and preparing for succession are his top priorities. He also wanted to bolster his team with expertise from all fields, including academia and civil society.



#### **Family-friendly Measures**

A slew of developments are lined up to enable millennials to set up families. 20,000 new childcare places will be launched by 2017. There will also be enhanced pre-school subsidies.



#### **Infrastructure Developments**

#### The Next 15 Years

- Woodlands Regional Centre will house businesses, homes and a new waterfront park
- The Rail Corridor will be revamped to make way for cycling paths, rest shelters, active event spaces and rainforest-viewing platforms
- The Tengah New Town will be built to draw more people to western Singapore
- The upcoming Jurong Lake Gardens, the size of 144 football fileds, will showcase how technology can be integrated with nature. The new Science Centre will be relocated here. Located nearby is the terminus of the high speed rail that will link Singapore to Kuala Lumpur

#### 2030 and Beyond

- The PSA Port in Tanjong Pagar and Pasir Panjang will be moved to Tuas Megaport
- A greater southern waterfront city is made possible with the relocation of the ports. This frees up space for various possibilities the likes of a 30km waterfront route for walking, running and cycling
- Changi Airport Terminals 4 and 5 will be built, while the Paya Lebar Airbase will be moved to Changi



# **Unique Opportunity** to Help Most Vulnerable

#### Assoc. Prof. Faishal on his work in Education and Social Development

Assoc. Prof. Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, MP for Nee Soon Central, is now Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). He spoke to us about his work in the two ministries, and how he is able to help the most vulnerable people in society.

"For example, for the special-needs community, MOE plans their education opportunities, and MSF helps them with employment and other needs after they graduate. Likewise, in the Early Childhood Development Agency, MOE and MSF staff work together."

That's not the only synergy he finds. In both ministries, he draws inspiration from the people he meets in Nee Soon. "Many young people in Nee Soon tell me we must build an inclusive society, one that cares for the disabled, the elderly and the poor. This reassures me that we are doing the right thing with our youths. MSF has the same vision of society, but we must also make sure that our help is targeted and does not hinder individual development."

Meeting well-rounded and driven youths also strengthens his belief in MOE's SkillsFuture movement, which encourages all Singaporeans to pursue their interests and develop mastery in their respective fields. Assoc. Prof. Faishal is also driven by his personal experiences: "Before I joined politics, I was an associate professor in NUS' real estate department. I was so interested in it, that I never felt work was

a chore. When I had my two children, my wife and I also encouraged them to pursue their interests. So when I heard about SkillsFuture, it resonated with me. I felt so happy and privileged to join the MOE team to drive this."

At MOE, he's working on a review of tertiary arts education, working with parent support groups and self-help groups and promoting Malay language and culture, among others.

#### First Community Club in a mall on track to open in 2018

Assoc. Prof. Faishal keeps a close eye on developments in his constituency. He shared with us that the new Nee Soon Central Community Club (CC), which will be Singapore's first CC in a mall, is on track to open in 2018. All the necessary funds have been secured ahead of schedule thanks to generous donors, and construction has already started on certain parts.

At the same time, he has worked with students from Temasek Polytechnic's School of Design. They have gathered feedback and suggestions from residents, and will apply 'design thinking' in the design of the CC.

Assoc. Prof. Faishal was also involved in the development of the cycling path network that connects all of Yishun and Singapore. The project in Yishun, which was completed last year, is one of the first in

Singapore. Since its completion, he has seen more Yishunites cycle to the MRT station. He also notes the improved co-existence between cyclists and road-users. He foresees even more bicycles in the future, as the North-South Corridor's cycling paths will enable Yishunites to cycle even to other towns.

He admits that there are differing views on promoting cycling. As the chairman of the Active Mobility Advisory Panel, he has recommended legislation to limit the speeds of bicycles on footpaths, so both cyclists and other road users can stay safe. He also acknowledged, "We still need more infrastructure, including safe storage facilities for personal mobility devices, and more education on sharing the roads considerately and safely."

Whether you're offering social assistance or providing quality education for all, you're giving Singaporeans opportunities to move up the social ladder. So there's a synergy between my two roles, which I see as a great privilege.

Prof. Madya Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, AP bagi Nee Soon Central, kini merupakan Setiausaha Parlimen di Kementerian Pendidikan (MOE) dan juga Kementerian Pembangunan Sosial dan Keluarga (MSF). Kata beliau tentang dua peranan yang disandangnya: "Sama ada anda menawarkan bantuan sosial atau pun menyediakan pendidikan yang berkualiti untuk semua, anda sememangnya memberikan peluang kepada rakyat Singapura untuk meniti tangga sosial. Jadi, terdapat sinergi antara dua peranan saya ini, yang saya anggap sebagai suatu keistimewaan yang besar."

Itu bukanlah satu-satunya sinergi yang beliau dapati. Dalam kedua-dua kementerian, beliau mengambil inspirasi daripada orang-orang yang beliau temui di Nee Soon. "Ramai golongan muda di Nee Soon memberitahu saya bahawa kita perlu membina sebuah masyarakat yang inklusif, yang mengambil berat tentang

mereka yang kurang upaya, warga tua dan yang memerlukan. Ini meyakinkan saya bahawa kita telah melakukan sesuatu yang betul dengan belia-belia kita. Begitu juga, MSF mempunyai visi yang sama terhadap masyarakat. Namun, kami juga perlu memastikan bahawa bantuan kami disasarkan dan tidak menghalang pembangunan individu."

Di MOE, beliau menguruskan SkillsFuture, semakan semula pendidikan tinggi kesenian, bekerja rapat dengan kumpulan sokongan ibu bapa dan kumpulan bantu diri serta mempromosikan bahasa dan kebudayaan Melayu, antara lainnya. Apabila ditanya mengenai usaha untuk menggalakkan budaya Melayu, Profesor Madya Faishal mengakui bahawa terdapat persaingan daripada peningkatan dalam penggunaan bahasa Inggeris secara global. Namun beliau menegaskan bahawa dengan sokongan yang kukuh daripada pemerintah serta masyarakat, Singapura berada dalam kedudukan yang baik untuk memupuk sebuah generasi yang sememangnya berbilang budaya dan dwibahasa. "Terdapat acaraacara kebudayaan dan berbahasa Melayu hampir setiap hujung minggu. Pelawat dari negara-negara jiran yang majoritinya Melayu sendiri telah memberitahu saya bahawa mereka cemburu dengan aktiviti-aktiviti yang kita anjurkan! Saya berharap agar ibu bapa akan melengkapkan lagi usaha-usaha ini, dengan menyediakan persekitaran untuk anak-anak mereka membaca, bercakap, mendengar dan menulis dalam Bahasa Melayu di rumah."

Prof. Madya Faishal juga berkongsi bersama kami bahawa Kelab Masyarakat (CC) Nee Soon yang baru, yang akan menjadi CC Singapura yang pertama dibina dalam sebuah pusat membelibelah, dijadualkan akan dibuka pada tahun 2018.

Remembering S R NATHAN 1924 - 2016



### Nee Soon Link Readership Survey

What do you want to see in Nee Soon Link? Nee Soon Link is for you, the residents of Nee Soon. We want to provide news you can use and stories of people around you. Please let us know what you want to see in our newsletter. If you return the survey to us, we'll also give you a small token of appreciation for your time.

1.	<b>Do you read the Nee Soon Link?</b> Yes   No	<ul> <li>9. Can we contact you to follow-up on your responses? Yes   No</li> <li>10. If you would like a token of appreciation from us, please fill in your details: Name:</li></ul>
2.	How many other family members read the Nee Soon Link? 1   2   3   4   5   More	
3.	What language do you read it in?EnglishChineseMalayTamil	
4.	What sections do you read?Image: National NewsImage: Local News and EventsImage: Lists (restaurants, clinics)Image: NSTC Did You KnowImage: People of NSTC Serving YouImage: Personality Interviews	Email: Mobile No.:
5.	<b>Is the content easy to read?</b> Yes   No	<ul> <li>Return the survey by:</li> <li>1. Taking a photo and emailing to us at feedback@nstc.org.sg with the subject line 'Nee Soon Link Survey'.</li> <li>2. Drop off the survey at our offices: from 8am to 5pm on weekdays and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays</li> <li>Yishun: Blk 290 Yishun St 22, S(760290)</li> <li>Nee Soon Central: Blk 751 Yishun St 72, #01-186, S(760751)</li> <li>Nee Soon South: Blk 845 Yishun St 81, #02-00, S(760845)</li> <li>Kebun Baru: Blk 161 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4, #01-500, S(560161)</li> <li>3. Mailing it to us at any of the addresses above, with 'Nee Soon Link Survey' written on the envelope.</li> </ul>
6.	What other content do you hope to see?	
7.	<b>Do you follow the NSTC Facebook Page?</b> Yes   No	
8.	Do you feel that your neighbourhood is well maintained?	

## Messages from the Heart

Good | Acceptable | Unacceptable

ometimes it is hard to say what we feel to the people we are closest to. You want to express your love and gratitude for them, but you feel shy and can't seem to find the right occasion.

That's why we started Project Postbox. We placed postboxes and postcards outside all our offices. Just write your wishes for someone and their address on a card, drop it into a postbox, and we'll post it to them for free.

Project Postbox was first launched before Father's Day. We received many heartwarming postcards from both adults and children. We even hand-delivered the card and a neck massager to one lucky family!

The postboxes were back in the period before Teachers' Day. Lots of students and ex-students took the chance to thank their mentors.





Follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/neesoon.tc to find out when the postboxes will be back and read heartwarming stories from the postcards.

### Nee Soon Lights Up

Lighted balloons depicting icons like Lim Nee Soon, ice kachang, the MRT and the Merlion illuminated the night sky of Nee Soon GRC from 1 to 15 August. National Day celebrations began on a fun and nostalgic note as residents took selfies and wefies in front of these balloon decorations. These were positioned outside Yishun MRT, Blk 838 Yishun Street 81, and Mayflower Market. Kebun Baru resident, Peter Lee, 56, said, "These icons of Singapore really bring the National Day mood to where our community gathers!"



### National Day Award 2016 Winners 国庆奖章2016

The National Day Award recognises residents and community leaders who have contributed in many ways to their community. Our Town Councillors who were recognised this year were:

许多居民和社区领袖都以各自不同的方式投身社会,为社区努力付出。国庆奖章颁发给他们,是表扬他们对国家的卓越贡 献。今年获得表彰的本市镇会理事是:

#### **PUBLIC SERVICE STAR**



Legal and Compliance Committee Mr Andrew Ng Tok Yong, PBM



Maintenance and Customer Service Committee **Mr Wong Teck Ling** 

**PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL** 

## Improvements Around You

#### Possible Subsidies for Two-step Ramps

Some HDB units have steps outside their door. These were originally designed for privacy but as our population ages, they become obstacles for elderly residents.

In a Ministerial Community Visit to Kebun Baru on 24 July, Minister Lawrence Wong announced that the Housing Development Board will look into adding subsidies for two- and three- step ramps. He cautioned that the optimal solution would have to be space-efficient, cost-effective and easy to maintain.

Mr Wong also visited a Kebun Baru family with two steps outside their house, together with local MP and Nee Soon Town Council Vice-chairperson Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry. The resident Mdm Low Sok Chin, 70, a retired cleaner, told him that her husband, Mr Teo Ah Koon, 78, had a stroke in June that left him incapable of speaking, swallowing and walking. A ramp outside their home would be extremely helpful.

Mr Wong and Mr Kwek also met low-income families who are involved in the Kebun Baru Cares programme. This is a 10-month pilot project by Kebun Baru Grassroots Organisations that helps families break out of the poverty cycle. Mr Wong penned down words of encouragement to beneficiaries on a 'Wall of Thoughts'.



#### Long-awaited Linkway in Nee Soon South



Under the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP), a linkway has been built from Blk 858 to Blk 855 in Nee Soon South.

At the completion ceremony on 3 July, local Grassroots Adviser and Nee Soon Town Council Vice-chairperson Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah revealed that LTA is going to link the linkway all the way to Khatib MRT, hopefully by the end of the year. When that is completed, residents can walk to the MRT comfortably whether rain or shine.

Other new facilities in the area include drop-off points, covered walkways, playgrounds, fitness corners and community gardens. NParks has planted butterfly-attracting plants along the street. On 3 July, Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah and residents also planted trees along Yishun Street 81 to add to the greenery.

Ms Wong Li Hua, 33, a mother of three, commented that with the linkway has made things more convenient as she needn't carry an umbrella when she goes grocery shopping at the supermarket. Mr Vinoth, 34, said that his three-year-old son likes the new playground.

#### First NKF Dialysis Centre Doubling As Outreach Centre

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) continues to step up efforts on preventing kidney disease with a first of its kind dialysis centre which also doubles as a community education and outreach centre.

Situated at Blk 840 Yishun Street 81, the SCAL-NKF Dialysis Centre was officially opened on 31 July 2016. Grassroots Advisers Minister K. Shanmugam and MP for Nee Soon South Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah graced the opening.



This centre was made possible with a \$1.9 mil sponsorship by Singapore Contractors Association (SCAL), with the government's dollar-for-dollar matching grant. It houses 14 dialysis stations and can benefit up to 84 patients. Equipped with a community area specifically catered for the public, residents can participate in health screenings, nutrition workshops, health talks and exercise classes.

Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah said, "Diabetes and hypertension are the main causes of kidney failure cases and to reduce such risks, residents of NSS should lead a healthy lifestyle with a balanced diet, regular physical exercises, and not smoking."

# People of NSTC

You may have been helped by these familiar faces at Nee Soon GRC. You are grateful, yet do not know their names. Here's the chance to get up close and personal to these committed staff from Nee Soon Town Council. They take pride in their work. Read on to understand them more deeply. Next time you meet them, greet them by their names. This will boost their morale!

Follow #PeopleOfNeeSoon on Facebook to read more stories of people around you.



"I am most satisfied when I help puzzled residents resolve financial issues. After I share my solutions, they feel that they have regained control of their situations. Colleagues here also look out for one another. I reckon this is what keeps me going."

Then Sin Yew Senior Finance and Admin Assistant

"Residents are considerate, cautioning me to be careful when carrying bulky items. They appreciate our efforts, offering me food and drinks at times. My fellow colleagues and I have been through thick and thin together. The team work among residents and staff is what motivates me to go the extra mile."

> Md Sobih Site Supervisor for Nee Soon South Zone D



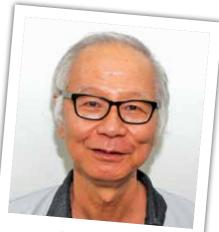


"I fix maintenance issues in Nee Soon GRC. The relief on the faces of residents after I have carried out the repair is my greatest reward. I befriend residents here. Usually when we bump into each other, we chat over lunch and even go to mosque together on Fridays."

Hazman Bin Johar Engineering Executive

"I am involved in the construction of covered linkways. I realise I am doing something meaningful when residents can go around the neighbourhood without an umbrella. That linkway really puts their minds at ease about the weather. I enjoy working in Nee Soon Town Council. I laugh easily as my colleagues like to crack jokes to lighten the mood."





Father of 1

### **Nee Soon South Art Trail**

In conjuction with PassionARTs Fiesta Celebration 2016, Nee Soon South launched an art trail to share part of Nee Soon's history with its residents. The art trail will include murals depicting the history of Nee Soon.

Grassroots Adviser Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah, MP for Nee Soon GRC, launched a sculpture – a 1.8m





tall pineapple. The pineapple is symbolic as most of Nee Soon was once a rubber and pineapple plantation.

The plantations were owned by renowned philanthropist and businessman – Mr Lim Nee Soon, from which the town got its name.

Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah said: "Art does not only belong in

museums. Art can be relevant to our heritage and having it in the neighbourhood will brighten up our lives. It can teach us about our history too."

Nee Soon South Community Club (CC) is looking out for old photos of Nee Soon to feature on the mural trail. Residents with such materials can contact the CC at 67533121 or send them to Peter\_Choo@pa.gov.sg.

#### **CHONG PANG** Mr. K. Shanmugam

Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law MP for Nee Soon GRC Adviser to Nee Soon Town Council

#### Meet-the-People Sessions Every Tuesday at 7.30pm (except public holidays & eves of public holidays) at Block 107 Yishun Ring Road #01-207 Singapore 760107 Tel: 6758 3039 Email: k shanmugam@mlaw.gov.sg Facebook: K Shanmugam Sc Youtube: K Shanmugam

#### **NEE SOON CENTRAL**



#### Assoc. Prof. Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social and Family Development MP for Nee Soon GRC Adviser to Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Sessions Every Monday at 7.00pm (except public holidays & eves of public holidays) at Block 609 Yishun St 61 #01-235 Singapore 760609 Tel: 6752 2532 Email: muhammad\_faishal\_ibrahim@msf.gov.sg

Facebook: muhammad.faishal.ibrahim1

#### **NEE SOON EAST**



Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang MP for Nee Soon GRC Chairman, Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Session First four Mondays of the month, 7.30pm to 9pm (Except the eves of/and a public holiday). at Block 227 Yishun St 21, #01-520 Singapore 760227 Tel: 6755 1946 Email: louisng4nse@gmail.com Facebook: louisngkokkwang

#### **NEE SOON SOUTH**



Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah MP for Nee Soon GRC Vice-Chairperson, Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People S Every Monday at 7.00pm (except public holidays & eves of public holidays) at Block 850 Yishun St 81 #01-94 Singapore 760850 Tel: 6759 3413 Email: mp4nss@gmail.com Facebook: leebeewahpage

#### **KEBUN BARU**



Mr Kwek Hian Chuan Henry MP for Nee Soon GRC Vice-Chairperson, Nee Soon Town Council

Meet-the-People Session Every Tuesday at 7.30pm (except public holidays & eves of public holidays) at Block 109 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4, #01-14 Singapore 560109 Tel: 6454 8792 Email: HenryforKebunbaru@gmail.com Facebook: Henrykwek

#### LOCATE US

**Yishun** Blk 290 Yishun St 22 S(760290) **Nee Soon Central** Blk 751 Yishun St 72, #01-186, S(760751)

Nee Soon South

Blk 845 Yishun St 81, #02-00, S(760845)

Email: feedback@nstc.org.sg Facebook: Nee Soon Town Council SMS/MMS:

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Kebun Baru
Blk 161 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4,
#01-500, S(560161)
EM
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9110 9877

EMSU 1800 275 5555 1800 241 7711 (Kebun Baru)





6758 0129





**#NSTCDidYouKnow** 

When we build facilities like covered walkways and ramps, all the money must first come from our operating surplus, although most of it will be eventually reimbursed by the government.

That's why we watch your money wisely and ensure we have enough surplus. Follow #NSTCDidYouKnow on Facebook to read more fun facts about our work.



## Kebun Baru helps 'Bao Lady' to help others

She's not well educated and can't speak English. When she was 27, her husband passed away and left her with three young children.

But Sarah Tan didn't give up. She built a successful business selling buns. What's more, she's used it to help hundreds of other single mothers.

You may have read Sarah's story in the media. She was hailed as 'the bao lady with a heart of gold' and 'Singapore's version of a saint'.

But did you know she's a Nee Soon resident too? And that our Nee Soon grassroots are helping her to keep helping others?

Sarah, now 52, started her bun chain Choon Ming Bao Dian 11 years ago. In its heyday, it had 13 shops all over the island, many run by single mothers.

Often she would take in their children so they could concentrate on getting back on their feet.

She also took in pregnant teenagers whose families have thrown them out. With her

encouragement, most people she took in eventually found their own place or moved back in with their family.

Then she would move on to the next needy family. So far, she has employed hundreds of people and sheltered about 60.

She's also employed the mentally challenged and elderly. Beyond Singapore, she's also opened orphanages in Malaysia and China.

Sarah ran into issues with her business lately and had to close most of her outlets. When Kebun Baru constituency MP and Nee Soon Town Council vice-chairman Kwek Hian



Sarah (centre) with her daughter, Rachel (right) and a teenager whom she has sheltered for many years, Poyin (left).

Chuan Henry visited her in June, she broke down when recounting her recent troubles. She said, "If not for the kids, I wouldn't have wanted to persevere. "

Mr Kwek told her not to worry. He asked his volunteers to help her with whatever she needs, so that she can get her business back on track and keep helping others.

Sarah rents a terrace house in Kebun Baru, sharing it with six children and two single mothers.

Local grassroots volunteers visit to read to the children. Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church also sponsors \$300 monthly per child for their education expenses.

Sarah has singlehandedly helped lots of people. But she will no longer be bearing the burden alone – the Kebun Baru and Nee Soon communities will be behind her.

If you want to support Sarah, you can visit her stalls at Blk 203 Toa Payoh North, Blk 122 Ang Mo Kio Ave 3 and Blk 628 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4. Or you can contact Kebun Baru MP Henry Kwek at henryforkebunbaru@ gmail.com.



## 哥本峇鲁 乐于助人的包店老板娘

她27岁时,丈夫过世了,只留下她一个人 女,好让她们能专心工作,重新生活。 独自抚养三名年幼的子女。

但陈丽英女士并没有向命运屈服。她成功 开辟了包店生意。更了不得的是,她还借 此帮助了数百名单亲妈妈。

您或许已经在其它媒体上得知了陈丽英女 士的故事。她就是人人赞颂的"心地善良 的包店老板娘"或是"土生土长的新加坡 圣人"。

但您又是否知道,她也是义顺集选区的居 民?而且我们义顺的基层领袖也在协助她 帮助有需要的人?

今年52岁的陈丽英女士在11年前创办了她 的店铺"春名包点"。巅峰时期,全岛各 处共有13间春名包点分店,多数都由单亲 妈妈经营。

她没有受过高深教育,也不会讲英语。在 许多时候,她帮忙照顾单亲妈妈们的子

她也收留那些未婚先孕, 被家人赶出来的 年轻妈妈。在她的鼓励下,多数的年轻妈 妈都在找到落脚处后,搬出去住,或搬回 到家人身边。

之后,她又继续帮助那些有需要的家庭。 至今,她已经雇用了数百名有需要帮助的 人士,并为约60人提供住处。

她也雇用智障者和乐龄人士。她的善举也 延伸到了国外,她在马来西亚和中国都设 立了孤儿院,照顾当地的孤儿。

最近, 陈丽英女士在生意上遇到了难题, 逼于无奈下只能关闭大多数分店继续经 营。当哥本峇鲁选区议员兼义顺市镇理事 会副会长郭献川先生在六月走访她时,陈 丽英女士不禁一脸愁容地哭诉道: "如果 不是为了孩子们,我不会坚持到今天。"

郭先生安慰她, 劝她不要担心。他已经吩 咐志愿人士尽力帮助她,让她能尽快把生 意拉回轨道,继续帮助有需要的人。

如今,陈丽英女士在哥本峇鲁租了间排屋, 和六名孩子和两名单亲妈妈一起居住。

该区的基层志工们会到她家陪伴她的孩子 们阅读。卫理公会宏茂桥堂也赞助每名孩 子每月\$300的教育开支。

陈丽英女士凭一己之力帮助了许多人。现 在哥本峇鲁及义顺社区也会义不容辞地支 持她。

如果您想帮助陈丽英女士,您可前往大巴 窑北第203座、宏茂桥3道第122座,和宏茂 桥4道第628座光顾她的分店。您也可以通 过电邮henryforkebunbaru@gmail.com联络 哥本峇鲁选区议员郭献川先生了解更多。