



Progress Singapore Party

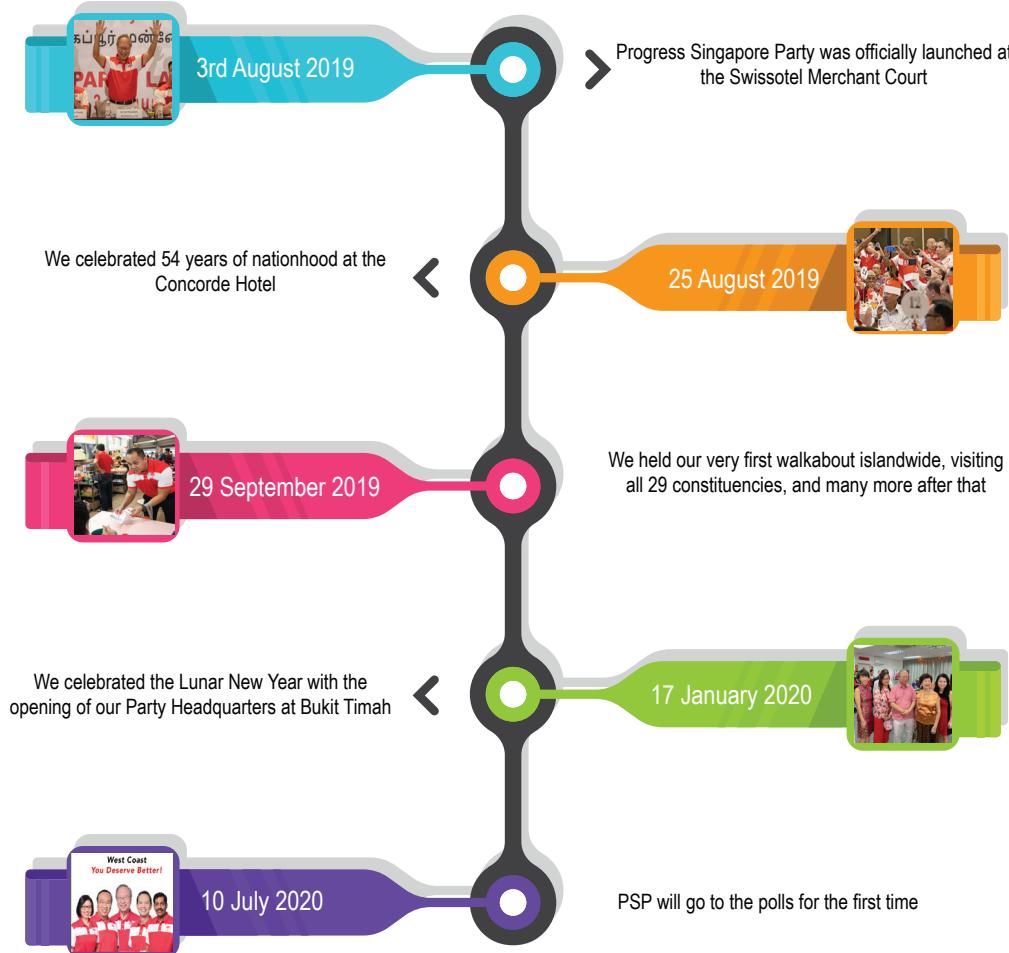


You Deserve Better

A GE2020 Manifesto by Progress Singapore Party

For Country, For people

Our Short Journey



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DR TAN CHENG BOCK

My dear Singaporeans,

Today, we will be presenting our manifesto. This manifesto is the culmination of months of research and consultations with the public.

We looked at the main issues concerning Singaporeans and at the topmost, was cost of living.

Singapore is a very expensive city and has held the title of the top five most expensive cities in the world in the last five years.

Wages have stagnated and the economy is lacklustre. On top of all that, the emergence of COVID-19 as a health and economic threat presents Singapore with difficult challenges ahead in the next decade or so.

Singapore's economy is forecasted to contract between 4% - 7% in 2020 and that puts massive downward pressure on demand for many goods and services. Some industries like travel, aviation, tourism, hotels and F&B have been hard hit, with job losses expected to hit 100k to 200k.

People are feeling the strain. Furthermore, in an Ipsos survey released in Feb this year, nearly 4 in 5 respondents agree that Singapore's economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful.

However, the government's response so far seems to be a patchwork of policy tweaks without addressing the fundamental factors affecting Singaporeans.

Large segments of the population are at risk of falling through the cracks and we need to support them with compassion to ensure that they get back on their feet.

Rehashing past policies is definitely not the way to go. We need to have a paradigm shift and look for workable alternative solutions going forward.

Progress Singapore Party believe that its manifesto offers a better alternative to the current problems that we are facing as a nation.

The manifesto is divided into three broad segments of Economic development, Social development and Political development. Each topic in turn looks at how we can build an alternative vision for Singapore.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider our proposals.

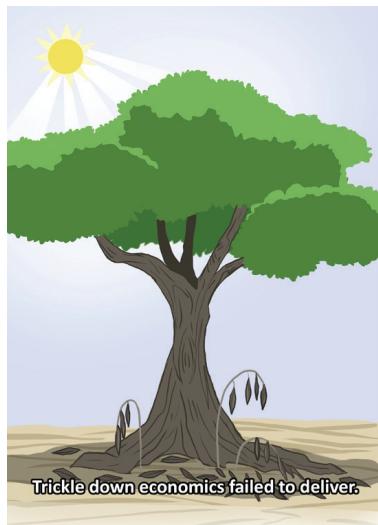
For country, For people.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In our economic policies, we will be guided by the following principles:

- The economy must serve Singaporeans, not the other way around.
- The purpose of economic growth is to improve the quality of life for the people. Economic growth that comes at the expense of quality of life defeats its purpose and is not sustainable.
- Our objective is to raise real wages gradually to improve the livelihood of individuals and families. We will target to increase the wage share of GDP to OECD standards over the longer term.
- Anyone who puts in an honest day's work should earn enough to live in dignity.
- Free market forces generally prevail in economic activities, with the government setting standards and ensuring fair competition. However, to ensure sustainability and survival in the long run and on the international stage, we will nurture and encourage local workforce and businesses and prioritise them in job and public sector procurement opportunities so as to build capability and resilience in Singapore.
- Provide the right environment for local SMEs to grow and develop into a strong growth engine of our economy locally, regionally and internationally.
- Maintain balance between economic development and environmental protection for the sake of future generations.
- Gear the economy up to exploit emerging opportunities offered by the 4th Industrial Revolution
- Reduce business costs to revitalise our industry and bring down cost of living



Our current priority is:

Resurgence Strategy Post-Covid: Bolder economic stimuli, stronger support for SMEs that employ 70% of our workforce.

Jobs for Singaporeans:

- Job priority for Singaporeans
- Introduce quota for Employment Pass
- Lower quota for S Pass and Work Permit
- Review free trade agreements like CECA

Assistance to local SMEs:

- Priority in public sector procurements
- Invest in local SMEs and encourage cooperation amongst them
- Direct support to SMEs to restructure their business and in their effort to go overseas
- Reduce business costs

Living Wage:

- Increase amount of Workfare and the cash portion to 80% (like wages)
- After the economy stabilises, to introduce living wage to all sectors

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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

In our social policies, we will be guided by the following principles:

- We are one united people regardless of race, language or religion
- Reducing inequality and Improving social mobility
- Using education as a social leveller
- Building a strong social safety net for the needy, including the handicapped, the sick, the retired and the dislocated
- Seeking to achieve work-family balance to improve our TFR
- More affordable homes



Our current priorities are:

- A stronger social safety net to help Singaporeans through the Covid-19 crisis
- Address HDB lease decay
- Increase quantum of CPF withdrawal at 55

Social safety net:

- Improved financial assistance for those unemployed due to Covid
- Increase ComCare payout

CPF:

- Withdrawal of up to \$50,000 at age 55
- Sale of En-bloc rights
- Medishield Life premium to be paid by Government

Housing:

- En-bloc redevelopment for all old flats
- Peg new flat prices to median income levels
- Bring down housing costs for young Singaporeans to free them for entrepreneurial pursuit

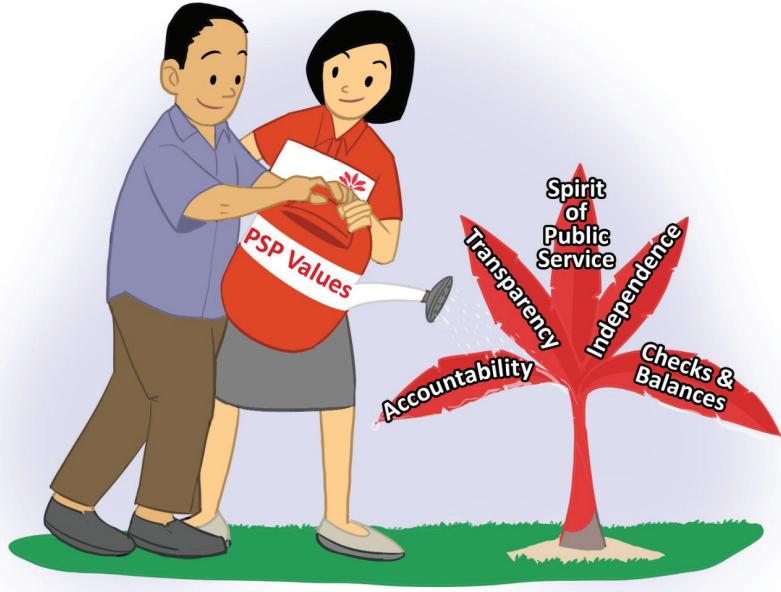
Taxes and Fees:

- Freeze tax and fee increases for the next five years
- Exempt basic necessities from GST

Financing of these proposals can be done through cuts in public spending and use of investment returns from our sovereign wealth fund.

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POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT



In our political policies, we will be guided by:

- A system of checks and balances is needed to prevent abuse of power
- Accountability, transparency and independence are needed to build trust
- Upholding the public service ethos of personal sacrifice and frugality
- Building national identity and pride integral to nation building
- Freedom of speech and expression to weave a richer national fabric

Our current priorities are:

- Stronger alternative voices in Parliament
- Independence of key institutions and appointments
- Strong public service ethos
- Freedom of speech and expression

Stronger alternative voices in Parliament:

- Reduce the over-dominance of a single Party with over 90% representation in Parliament
- Stronger alternative voices in Parliament offering different viewpoints and suggestions

Independence of key institutions and key appointments:

- Expand Presidential oversight over more key public appointments
- No conflict of interest in key public appointments

Public Service :

- Personal sacrifice: Ministerial salaries should be cut and pegged to median income.
- Public spending should be frugal and huge projects subject to greater scrutiny
- Public service including public transport and utilities should not be profit making.

Freedom of speech and expression:

- Allow for speaking up without fear or favour
- Encourage diversity of views
- Relax the regulation of media & the arts
- Review POFMA

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Let's get connected.



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