

# TENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

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## FIRST SESSION

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### ORDER PAPER

MONDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 2003

No. 33

12.30 p.m.

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#### QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER\*

- \*1. **Dr Ong Chit Chung:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence (a) what are the causes of the collision between RSS Courageous and merchant vessel ANL Indonesia and (b) whether follow-up actions are being taken to prevent such incidents in the future.
- \*2. **Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence (a) if he will provide a status update of the recent collision between RSS Courageous and ANL Indonesia; (b) what measures are being taken to assist the family members of the deceased, especially on a longer term basis; and (c) how will the Republic of Singapore Navy ensure that this accident will not leave a psychological scar on existing navy personnel and impact the recruitment of potential navy recruits.
- \*3. **Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence if he will explain how the collision between the naval vessel RSS Courageous and the container vessel ANL Indonesia occurred in Singapore waters recently.
- \*4. **Dr Amy Khor Lean Suan:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether Singapore, as the world's largest container trans-shipment hub, is a prime target for acts of terror; and (b) what are the measures his Ministry is taking to enhance security and harden the area against terrorist attacks for vessels passing through the area.
- \*5. **Mr Charles Chong:** To ask the Minister for Manpower for a breakdown of the number of job seekers (a) seeking employment assistance for the period January to December 2002 from (i) his Ministry, (ii) each of the five Community Development Councils and (iii) each of the four self-help groups (namely the Chinese Development Assistance Council, Mendaki, Sinda and Eurasian Association); and (b) successfully placed by the respective organisations as a percentage of the number.

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- \*6. Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) if he will provide a status update on (i) the unemployment situation by occupation, age group and qualification (ii) job vacancies and their distribution in the various industries and (iii) the extent and success of job creation; and (b) what other measures will the Government consider to change the mindset of (i) employers with regard to employing those above the age of 45 years and (ii) potential job seekers, especially those who have been retrenched and are above the age of 45 years.
- \*7. Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman:** To ask the Minister for Manpower if he will provide an update on the success of the 'People for Jobs' programme implemented by his Ministry, including the number of people who have enrolled in programmes such as the Skills Redevelopment Programme and the rate of job placement for these individuals.
- \*8. Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the number of people who have sought assistance for jobs from the Community Development Councils (CDCs) in 2002 and how many of them have successfully gained employment; and (b) what is being done to further improve the job placement rates for retrenched Singaporeans who have sought help from the CDCs.
- \*9. Mr A Nithiah Nandan:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry what is the investment and job creation outlook for 2003.
- \*10. Dr Wang Kai Yuen:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) what are the reasons that caused the significant devaluation of the Housing and Development Board (HDB) resale flats in recent years; (b) what measures his Ministry could have taken to prevent this collapse; and (c) what measures will the Government take to ameliorate the negative equity suffered by these HDB flat owners.
- \*11. Dr Teo Ho Pin:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) why is the Housing and Development Board (HDB) advertising for the sale of its flats; (b) how many new flats are unsold to date; and (c) whether HDB will further liberalise its rules to allow flat owners more flexibility to sell, rent or use their flats.
- \*12. Mr Gan Kim Yong:** To ask the Minister for Health whether his Ministry will (i) consider conducting a survey to determine the reasons for Singaporeans opting out of the EldersShield Scheme; and (ii) undertake a review of the scheme following the survey.

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- \*13. Mr Low Thia Kiang:** To ask the Minister for Law (a) whether the cost of operating the Supreme Court increased significantly in the 1990s; and (b) if so, which items were responsible for the increase and the amounts involved.
- \*14. Mdm Halimah Yacob:** To ask the Minister for Law, in view of the recent hike in court fees (a) will the ability of low income Singaporeans to pursue claims in court be affected; (b) will the current income limit for legal aid be reviewed; (c) how many persons had secured assistance from the Legal Aid Bureau over the last three years; and (d) what other measures are being pursued to reduce reliance on litigation as a means of settling disputes and how successful have these been.
- \*15. Dr Chong Weng Chiew:** To ask the Minister for Health in the light of increased emphasis on step-down services, will his Ministry allow the use of Medisave to pay for domiciliary medical and nursing care.
- \*16. Dr Amy Khor Lean Suan:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how many students, by levels, were expelled from schools for each year from 2000 to 2002; (b) whether these numbers had been increasing over the years; (c) what are the current guidelines provided by the Ministry to school principals regarding the expulsion of students; (d) what help and counselling these students are given or can turn to before and after expulsion; and (e) whether the Ministry can provide clear guidelines and assistance for their re-admission to schools, instead of asking the students and their parents to apply directly to the schools.
- \*17. Ms Braema Mathiapparanam:** To ask the Minister for Education (a) how many of the 178 children who could not be traced for registration in Primary 1 have since been found; (b) how many of the 312 children who are still being traced are now in school; (c) what is the proportion of boys and girls in the cohort of 467 children who have enrolled into madrasahs; (d) what is his assessment of the implementation of how the Compulsory Education Act has been put into effect by his Ministry; and (e) what improvements, if needed, can be made to get more children into schools under this Act.
- \*18. Mr Ahmad Khalis bin Abdul Ghani:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether the Ministry has a profile of youths at high risk of becoming new drug abusers; (b) what has been done to prevent these youths from becoming drug abusers; and (c) how successful have these measures been.

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- \*19. Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) if he will clarify the policy of disallowing former work permit holders from marrying Singaporeans even after they have ceased being a work permit holder; and (b) if his Ministry will consider a timeframe for which a former work permit holder who has ceased holding the work permit, be allowed to marry a Singaporean without facing charges of violating his work permit agreement.
- \*20. Mr Low Thia Kiang:** To ask the Minister for Health (a) why the prices of some drugs in polyclinics are higher than those of restructured hospitals; and (b) how can the Government ensure that polyclinic patients will get the best deal in drug prices.
- \*21. Mr Steve Chia Kiah Hong:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs if his Ministry will consider (i) allowing motorcyclists holding Singapore passports to use the less jammed car lanes at the Tuas and Woodlands checkpoints, so as to alleviate the long jams caused by Malaysian motorcyclists returning home after work and (ii) adding more staff and opening up more immigration checkpoint counters during peak hours so as to reduce the time taken for Malaysian motorcyclists to clear Singapore immigration.
- \*22. Mr Low Thia Kiang:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) what is the number of claims lodged with the Ministry by non-unionised workers against employers for unpaid wages in 2001 and 2002; (b) what is the number of claims where the claimants have not been able to fully recover their unpaid wages; and (c) what is the Ministry's response to cases where employers fail to comply with orders of the Labour Court to make payment and what further recourse is available to the claimants in such cases.
- \*23. Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Minister for Transport when will the North East Line be opened.
- \*24. Ms Braema Mathiapparanam:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development and Sports if he will consider setting up regional shelter-cum-drop-in short stay facilities for troubled teens or children to give them respite care or to help parents who need such temporary refuge for their children.
- \*25. Mr Sin Boon Ann:** To ask the Acting Minister for Community Development and Sports if he will consider allowing parents who have babies they cannot care for to leave them at a legally designated place without penalizing them.

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- \*26. **Mdm Ho Geok Choo:** To ask the Minister for Trade and Industry how will Singapore's convention and exhibition centres be affected by the recently completed multi-million dollar convention and exhibition hall in Yogyakarta.
- \*27. **Dr Chong Weng Chiew:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs what are the steps taken to increase the number of civil defence trained people in Singapore, particularly those trained in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation Skills (CPR).
- \*28. **Dr Teo Ho Pin:** To ask the Minister for National Development, in view of the need to encourage healthy lifestyles among Singaporeans (a) what is the progress in the development of park connectors in Singapore; and (b) whether his Ministry will consider expediting the development.
- \*29. **Dr Teo Ho Pin:** To ask the Minister for National Development (a) how many pets were abandoned each year; (b) what measures are being taken to address this problem; and (c) whether his Ministry will support the renting of pets by shops.
- \*30. **Mr Chiam See Tong:** To ask the Minister for National Development whether the recent decision to upgrade Sennett Estate is based on the Estate's eligibility or is it a result of the promise made by the Prime Minister in the last General Election.

\* Members may signify to the Clerk their desire to postpone their Questions to a later sitting day, if their Questions are not reached by the end of Question Time. The forms for postponement of Questions are available at the Chamber entrances and should be given to the Clerk at the end of Question Time.

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## NOTICE OF MOTION

### 1. **Minister for Home Affairs:**

**THREAT OF TERRORISM:** That this House (a) acknowledges that the terrorist threat to Singapore is real and serious; (b) supports the firm actions the Government has taken against the threat to the security of Singapore posed by the Jemaah Islamiyah group and other militant and extremist groups in the region; and (c) endorses the recommendations put forth in the White Paper on The Jemaah Islamiyah Arrests and the Threat of Terrorism, contained in Paper Cmd. 2 of 2003, to counter the terrorist threat by (i) enhancing the security measures; (ii) policing the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology; and (iii) strengthening our social cohesion and religious harmony.

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**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

1. **Ms Irene Ng:** To ask the Minister for National Development if he will (a) give a breakdown of the total number of Housing and Development Board one- and two-room rental flats in Singapore; (b) state what is the trend in the demand for such flats over the last five years; and (c) provide a profile of the tenants in terms of age, marital status, sex and occupation.
  2. **Mr Low Thia Kiang:** To ask the Minister for Health whether all the staff of the National Healthcare Group were given institutional bonuses and how were the bonuses calculated.
  3. **Ms Braema Mathiapparanam:** To ask the Minister for Manpower (a) how many (i) individuals do not have Central Provident Fund (CPF) accounts (ii) women do not have any CPF accounts and (iii) CPF accounts are inactive; and (b) if he will provide details of these inactive account holders by age group, sex and occupation type.
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**PAPERS PRESENTED**

		<i>2002</i>	<i>Date Presented</i>
Parl.	4	Report of the Estimates Committee ... ..	7th December, 2002
S.	140	Annual Report of the Singapore Science Centre 2001/2002 ... ..	10th December, 2002
S.	141	Annual Report of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research 2001/2002	13th December, 2002
S.	142	Annual Report of the National Heritage Board 2001/2002 ... ..	13th December, 2002
Pres. Co.	35	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Registration of Criminals (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 43/2002] ... ..	14th December, 2002
Pres. Co.	36	Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 47/2002] ... ..	14th December, 2002

**PAPERS PRESENTED – *continued***

		<i>2002</i>	<i>Date Presented</i>
S.	143	Advice of the Council of Presidential Advisers on the Appointment of Mr Tan Boon Huat to the HDB Board ...	17th December, 2002
S.	144	Annual Report of the Singapore Tourism Board 2001/2002 ... ..	18th December, 2002
S. L.	123	Customs (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2002 ... ..	26th December, 2002
Parl.	5	Report of the Public Accounts Committee	26th December, 2002
		<i>2003</i>	
S. L.	1	Rules of Court (Amendment No. 5) Rules 2002 ... ..	3rd January, 2003
S.	1	Annual Report of the Ngee Ann Polytechnic 2001/2002 ... ..	4th January, 2003
Cmd.	1	Annual Report of the Ministry of Manpower 2002 ... ..	4th January, 2003
S.	2	Annual Report of the Health Sciences Authority 2001/2002 ... ..	6th January, 2003
Cmd.	2	Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the Jemaah Islamiyah Arrests and the Threat of Terrorism ... ..	7th January, 2003
S. L.	2	Public Utilities (Electricity Supply) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 ... ..	7th January, 2003
S. L.	3	Public Utilities (Electricity) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2002 ... ..	7th January, 2003
S. L.	4	Electricity (Electrical Workers) Regulations 2002 ... ..	7th January, 2003

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**PAPERS PRESENTED – *continued***

<i>2003</i>			<i>Date Presented</i>
S. L.	5	Electricity (Composition of Offences) Regulations 2002 ... ..	7th January, 2003
S. L.	6	Public Utilities (Licence To Use Or Operate Electrical Or Supply Installations) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 ... ..	7th January, 2003
S.	3	Interpretation Act (Chapter 1, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	4	Agency for Science, Technology and Research Act (Chapter 5A, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	5	Animals and Birds Act (Chapter 7, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	6	Cattle Act (Chapter 34, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	7	Civil List and Pensions Act (Chapter 44, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	8	Contact Lens Practitioners Act (Chapter 53A, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	9	Control of Vectors and Pesticides Act (Chapter 59, Revised Edition) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	10	Currency Act (Chapter 69, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	11	Environmental Pollution Control Act (Chapter 94A, Revised Edition 2002)	8th January, 2003
S.	12	Environmental Public Health Act (Chapter 95, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003



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**PAPERS PRESENTED – *continued***

<i>2003</i>			<i>Date Presented</i>
S.	13	Financial Advisers Act (Chapter 110, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	14	Fisheries Act (Chapter 111, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	15	Government Securities Act (Chapter 121A, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	16	Insurance Act (Chapter 142, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	17	International Arbitration Act (Chapter 143A, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	18	International Enterprise Singapore Board Act (Chapter 143B, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	19	Land Surveyors Act (Chapter 156, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	20	Local Treasury Bills Act (Chapter 167, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	21	National University of Singapore Act (Chapter 204, Revised Edition 2002) ...	8th January, 2003
S.	22	Newspaper and Printing Presses Act (Chapter 206, Revised Edition 2002) ...	8th January, 2003
S.	23	Sale of Food Act (Chapter 283, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003
S.	24	Securities and Futures Act (Chapter 289, Revised Edition 2002) ... ..	8th January, 2003

**PAPERS PRESENTED – *continued***

<i>2003</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>
S.	25	Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board Act (Chapter 303A, Revised Edition 2002) ... .. 8th January, 2003
S.	26	Smoking (Prohibition in Certain Places) Act (Chapter 310, Revised Edition 2002) ... .. 8th January, 2003
S. L.	7	Housing and Development (Conveyancing Fees) (Amendment) Rules 2002) ... .. 9th January, 2003
S. L.	8	Housing and Development (Mortgage to Lender) Rules 2002 ... .. 9th January, 2003
S. L.	9	Fees (Property Tax) (Amendment No. 2) Order 2002 ... .. 10th January, 2003
S.	27	Financial Statements of the Bukit Timah Town Council for the period 1st April 2001 to 12th November 2001 ... .. 13th January, 2003
S.	28	Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Cheng San Town Council 1st April 2001 to 12th November 2001 ... .. 13th January, 2003
S.	29	Financial Statements of the City Centre Town Council of 13th November 2001 to 31st December 2001 ... .. 13th January, 2003
S.	30	Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Pasir Ris Town Council 1st April 2001 to 12th November 2001 ... .. 13th January, 2003
S.	31	Annual Report of the Tanjong Pagar-West Coast Town Council 1st April 2001 to 31st December 2001 ... .. 13th January, 2003
S.	32	Report and Financial Statements of the Aljunied Town Council ended 31st May 2002 ... .. 13th January, 2003

**PAPERS PRESENTED— *continued***

<i>2003</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>	
S.	33	Financial Statements of the Ang Mo Kio Town Council 31st March 2002 ...	13th January, 2003
S.	34	Financial Statements of the Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council ended 31st March 2002 ... ..	13th January, 2003
S.	35	Annual Report of the East Coast Town Council 2001/2002 ... ..	13th January, 2003
S.	36	Financial Statements of the Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council 2002 ....	13th January, 2003
S.	37	Financial Statements of the Hong Kah Town Council 2001/2002 ... ..	13th January, 2003
S.	38	Annual Report of the Hougang Town Council 2002 ... ..	13th January, 2003
S.	39	Financial Statements of the Jalan Besar Town Council 31st March 2002 ...	13th January, 2003
S.	40	Financial Statements of the Jurong Town Council 13th November 2001 to 31st March 2002 ... ..	13th January, 2003
S.	41	Annual Report of the Marine Parade Town Council 2001/2002 ... ..	13th January, 2003
S.	42	Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Pasir Ris-Punggol Town Council 13th November 2001 to 31st March 2002 ... ..	13th January, 2003
S.	43	Annual Report of the Potong Pasir Town Council 2001/2002 ....	13th January, 2003
S.	44	Annual Report of the Sembawang Town Council 2001/2002 ... ..	13th January, 2003

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**PAPERS PRESENTED— *continued***

<i>2003</i>	<i>Date Presented</i>
S. 45 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Tampines Town Council 2001/2002	13th January, 2003
S. 46 Financial Statements of the Tanjong Pagar Town Council 13th November 2001 to 31st March 2002 ... ..	13th January, 2003
S. 47 Annual Report of the West Coast-Ayer Rajah Town Council 13th November 2001 to 31st March 2002 .... ..	13th January, 2003
S. L. 10 Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Rules 2002 ... ..	14th January, 2003
S. L. 11 Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Regulations 2002 ... ..	14th January, 2003
S. L. 12 Central Provident Fund (Medishield Scheme) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2002 ... ..	14th January, 2003
S. L. 13 Central Provident Fund (Approved Housing Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 ... ..	14th January, 2003
S. L. 14 Central Provident Fund (Home Protection Insurance Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 ... ..	14th January, 2003
S. L. 15 Central Provident Fund (Self-Employed Persons) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 ... ..	14th January, 2003
S. L. 16 Electricity (Electrical Workers) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 ...	14th January, 2003
S. L. 17 Electricity (Electrical Installations) Regulations 2002 ... ..	14th January, 2003

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**PAPERS PRESENTED— *continued***

<i>2003</i>		<i>Date Presented</i>
S. L.	18 Electricity (Composition of Offences) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 ...	14th January, 2003
S. L.	19 Electricity (Cable Detection Workers) Regulations 2002 ... ..	14th January, 2003
S. L.	20 Electricity (Contestable Consumers) Regulations 2002 ... ..	14th January, 2003

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