

**FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE
(SECOND SESSION)**

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, 2 JULY 2024**

No. 137

12 noon

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PRESENT:

Mr SPEAKER (Mr Seah Kian Peng (Marine Parade)).
Mr ANG WEI NENG (West Coast).
Mr BAEY YAM KENG (Tampines), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment and Ministry of Transport.
Mr CHAN CHUN SING (Tanjong Pagar), Minister for Education.
Miss CHERYL CHAN WEI LING (East Coast).
Ms USHA CHANDRADAS (Nominated Member).
Mr CHEE HONG TAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance.
Mr EDWARD CHIA BING HUI (Holland-Bukit Timah).
Mr CHONG KEE HIONG (Bishan-Toa Payoh).
Mr DESMOND CHOO (Tampines).
Mr ERIC CHUA (Tanjong Pagar) Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Social and Family Development.
Mr KEITH CHUA (Nominated Member).
Mr CHUA KHENG WEE LOUIS (Sengkang).
Mr DARRYL DAVID (Ang Mo Kio).
Mr CHRISTOPHER DE SOUZA (Holland-Bukit Timah), Deputy Speaker.
Ms FOO MEE HAR (West Coast).
Ms GRACE FU HAI YIEN (Yuhua), Minister for Sustainability and the Environment.
Mr GAN KIM YONG (Chua Chu Kang), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry.
Ms GAN SIOW HUANG (Marymount), Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower.
Mr GAN THIAM POH (Ang Mo Kio).
Mr GERALD GIAM YEAN SONG (Aljunied).
Mr DERRICK GOH (Nee Soon).
Ms HE TING RU (Sengkang).
Mr HENG CHEE HOW (Jalan Besar), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence.
Mr HENG SWEE KEAT (East Coast), Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies.
Mr SHAWN HUANG WEI ZHONG (Jurong), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance.
Ms INDRANEE RAJAH (Tanjong Pagar), Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance, Second Minister for National Development and Leader of the House.
Dr JANIL PUTHUCHEARY (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Health and Government Whip.
Dr KOH POH KOON (Tampines), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment.

Mr KWEK HIAN CHUAN HENRY (Kebun Baru).
Mr DESMOND LEE (West Coast), Minister for National Development and Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration.
Mr LEE HSIEN LOONG (Ang Mo Kio), Prime Minister.
Mr MARK LEE (Nominated Member).
Mr LEONG MUN WAI (Non-Constituency Member).
Mr LIANG ENG HWA (Bukit Panjang).
Mr LIM BIOW CHUAN (Mountbatten).
Assoc Prof JAMUS JEROME LIM (Sengkang).
Ms SYLVIA LIM (Aljunied).
Dr LIM WEE KIAK (Sembawang).
Ms LOW YEN LING (Chua Chu Kang), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Trade and Industry.
Ms MARIAM JAAFAR (Sembawang).
Mr MASAGOS ZULKIFLI B M M (Tampines), Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs.
Dr MOHAMAD MALIKI BIN OSMAN (East Coast), Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Mr MOHD FAHMI BIN ALIMAN (Marine Parade).
Assoc Prof Dr MUHAMMAD FAISHAL IBRAHIM (Nee Soon), Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development.
Mr MURALI PILLAI (Bukit Batok), Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Transport.
Ms NADIA AHMAD SAMDIN (Ang Mo Kio).
Mr LOUIS NG KOK KWANG (Nee Soon).
Ms NG LING LING (Ang Mo Kio).
Mr ONG HUA HAN (Nominated Member).
Mr NEIL PAREKH NIMIL RAJNIKANT (Nominated Member).
Ms JOAN PEREIRA (Tanjong Pagar).
Ms DENISE PHUA LAY PENG (Jalan Besar).
Ms HAZEL POA (Non-Constituency Member).
Ms POH LI SAN (Sembawang).
Mr PRITAM SINGH (Aljunied), Leader of the Opposition.
Ms RAHAYU MAHZAM (Jurong), Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Health.
Assoc Prof RAZWANA BEGUM ABDUL RAHIM (Nominated Member).
Mr SAKTIANDI SUPAAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh).
Ms SEE JINLI JEAN (Nominated Member).
Mr K SHANMUGAM (Nee Soon), Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law.
Mr SHARAEL TAHA (Pasir Ris-Punggol).
Ms SIM ANN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of National Development and Deputy Government Whip.
Mr SITOY YIH PIN (Potong Pasir).
Ms HANY SOH (Marsiling-Yew Tee).
Ms SUN XUELING (Punggol West), Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development.
Dr SYED HARUN ALHABSYI (Nominated Member).

Mr ALVIN TAN (Tanjong Pagar), Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Ms CARRIE TAN (Nee Soon).

Mr DENNIS TAN LIP FONG (Hougang).

Mr DESMOND TAN (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office.

Mr TAN KIAT HOW (East Coast), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of National Development.

Dr TAN SEE LENG (Marine Parade), Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry.

Ms JESSICA TAN SOON NEO (East Coast), Deputy Speaker.

Dr TAN WU MENG (Jurong).

Mr PATRICK TAY TECK GUAN (Pioneer).

Mr TEO CHEE HEAN (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security.

Mrs JOSEPHINE TEO (Jalan Besar), Minister for Communications and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs.

Mr RAJ JOSHUA THOMAS (Nominated Member)

Ms TIN PEI LING (MacPherson).

Mr EDWIN TONG CHUN FAI (Marine Parade), Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law.

Mr VIKRAM NAIR (Sembawang).

Dr VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Dr WAN RIZAL (Jalan Besar).

Mr DON WEE (Chua Chu Kang).

Mr LAWRENCE WONG (Marsiling-Yew Tee), Prime Minister and Minister for Finance.

Mr XIE YAO QUAN (Jurong).

Mr ALEX YAM ZIMING (Marsiling-Yew Tee).

Ms YEO WAN LING (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Mr YIP HON WENG (Yio Chu Kang).

Mr MELVIN YONG YIK CHYE (Radin Mas).

Mr ZAQY MOHAMAD (Marsiling-Yew Tee), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Manpower and Deputy Leader of the House.

Mr ZHULKARNAIN ABDUL RAHIM (Chua Chu Kang).

ABSENT:

Dr AMY KHOR LEAN SUAN (Hong Kah North), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment and Ministry of Transport.

Mr MUHAMAD FAISAL ABDUL MANAP (Aljunied).

Dr NG ENG HEN (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Minister for Defence.

Miss RACHEL ONG (West Coast).

Mr ONG YE KUNG (Sembawang), Minister for Health.

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- 1 Papers presented to Parliament and received by the Clerk of Parliament pursuant to Standing Order No. 31 (Presentation of Papers) and ordered to lie upon the Table:
- 1.1 Organised Crime Act 2015 (Amendment of Schedule) Order 2024 – Presented on 6 June 2024 (S. L. 1141 of 2024)
 - 1.2 Prisons Act 1933 (Amendment of First and Second Schedules) Order 2024 – Presented on 6 June 2024 (S. L. 1142 of 2024)
 - 1.3 Public Entertainments Act 1958 (Amendment of Second Schedule) Order 2024 – Presented on 6 June 2024 (S. L. 1143 of 2024)
 - 1.4 Online Criminal Harms (Appeals to Minister) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 27 June 2024 (S. L. 1160 of 2024)
 - 1.5 Online Criminal Harms Act 2023 (Amendment of First and Second Schedules) Order 2024 – Presented on 27 June 2024 (S. L. 1161 of 2024)
 - 1.6 Online Criminal Harms (Service) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 27 June 2024 (S. L. 1162 of 2024)
 - 1.7 Societies (Amendment) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 10 May 2024 (S. L. 1130 of 2024)
 - 1.8 Societies (Composition of Offences) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 10 May 2024 (S. L. 1131 of 2024)
 - 1.9 Annual Report of Home Affairs Uniformed Services (INVEST Fund) for Financial Year 2023/2024 – Presented on 27 June 2024 (S. 473 of 2024)
 - 1.10 Land Surveyors Board Singapore 2023 Annual Report – Presented on 20 May 2024 (S. 464 of 2024)
 - 1.11 Legal Profession (Admission) (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2024 – Presented on 24 May 2024 (S. L. 1134 of 2024)
 - 1.12 Legal Profession (Foreign Practitioner Examinations) (Amendment) Rules 2024 – Presented on 24 May 2024 (S. L. 1135 of 2024)
 - 1.13 Rules of Court (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2024 – Presented on 14 June 2024 (S. L. 1153 of 2024)
 - 1.14 Legal Profession (Administrative Fees) (Amendment) Rules 2024 – Presented on 20 June 2024 (S. L. 1154 of 2024)
 - 1.15 Family Justice (Amendment) Rules 2024 – Presented on 26 June 2024 (S. L. 1158 of 2024)
 - 1.16 Family Justice (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2024 – Presented on 26 June 2024 (S. L. 1159 of 2024)
 - 1.17 Rules of Court (Amendment No. 3) Rules 2024 – Presented on 2 July 2024 (S. L. 1163 of 2024)
 - 1.18 Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Rules 2024 – Presented on 2 July 2024 (S. L. 1164 of 2024)

- 1.19 Workplace Safety and Health (Amendment of Penalties) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 3 June 2024 (S. L. 1138 of 2024)
- 1.20 Workplace Safety and Health (Incident Reporting) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 3 June 2024 (S. L. 1139 of 2024)
- 1.21 Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 6 June 2024 (S. L. 1144 of 2024)
- 1.22 Central Provident Fund Board Annual Report 2023 – Presented on 1 July 2024 (S. 476 of 2024)
- 1.23 Annual Report of Industrial Arbitration Court 2023 – Presented on 27 June 2024 (S. 474 of 2024)
- 1.24 Connect Fund – Financial Statements for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2024 – Presented on 5 June 2024 (S. 465 of 2024)
- 1.25 Connect Fund – Periodic Examination Report for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2024 – Presented on 5 June 2024 (S. 466 of 2024)
- 1.26 Income Tax (Eligible Courses in Section 14ZG(5)) Rules 2024 – Presented on 3 June 2024 (S. L. 1140 of 2024)
- 1.27 Pioneer Generation Fund Audited Financial Statements for the Financial Period ended 31 March 2024 – Presented on 10 June 2024 (S. 467 of 2024)
- 1.28 Goods and Services Tax Voucher Fund Audited Financial Statements for the Financial Period ended 31 March 2024 – Presented on 10 June 2024 (S. 468 of 2024)
- 1.29 Income Tax (Transfer Pricing Documentation) (Amendment) Rules 2024 – Presented on 11 June 2024 (S. L. 1152 of 2024)
- 1.30 Goods and Services Tax (Non-Taxable Public Agency Supplies) Order 2024 – Presented on 9 May 2024 (S. L. 1128 of 2024)
- 1.31 Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 31 May 2024 (S. L. 1137 of 2024)
- 1.32 Planning (Fees) (Amendment No. 3) Rules 2024 – Presented on 25 June 2024 (S. L. 1155 of 2024)
- 1.33 Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Annual Report 2023 – Presented on 21 June 2024 (S. 471 of 2024)
- 1.34 Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Audited Financial Statements 2023 – Presented on 21 June 2024 (S. 472 of 2024)
- 1.35 Road Traffic (Renewal of Certificates of Entitlement for Specified Taxis) (No. 3) Rules 2024 – Presented on 9 May 2024 (S. L. 1129 of 2024)
- 1.36 Savings and Employee Retirement and Premium Fund (SAVER-Premium Fund) Annual Report for Financial Year 2023 – Presented on 1 July 2024 (S. 477 of 2024)

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- 1.37 Singapore Armed Forces (Authorised Deductions) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 13 May 2024 (S. L. 1132 of 2024)
 - 1.38 MUIS Annual Report 2023 – Presented on 27 June 2024 (S. 475 of 2024)
 - 1.39 Parliamentary Elections Act 1954 (Amendment of First Schedule) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 6 June 2024 (S. L. 1145 of 2024)
 - 1.40 Parliamentary Elections (Composition of Offences) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 6 June 2024 (S. L. 1146 of 2024)
 - 1.41 Parliamentary Elections (Crisis Management) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 6 June 2024 (S. L. 1147 of 2024)
 - 1.42 Parliamentary Elections (Elections Advertising) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 6 June 2024 (S. L. 1148 of 2024)
 - 1.43 Parliamentary Elections (Exemption from Section 83(1)(d) and (2)) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 6 June 2024 (S. L. 1149 of 2024)
 - 1.44 Parliamentary Elections (Overseas Voting) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 6 June 2024 (S. L. 1150 of 2024)
 - 1.45 Parliamentary Elections (Polling Stations) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 6 June 2024 (S. L. 1151 of 2024)
 - 1.46 Financial Services and Markets (Resolution of Financial Institutions) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 25 June 2024 (S. L. 1157 of 2024)
 - 1.47 Singapore Public Service Commission Annual Report 2023 – Presented on 17 May 2024 (S. 463 of 2024)
 - 1.48 Judicial Service Commission Annual Report 2023 – Presented on 21 June 2024 (S. 469 of 2024)
 - 1.49 Legal Service Commission Annual Report 2023 – Presented on 21 June 2024 (S. 470 of 2024)
 - 1.50 Women’s Charter (Parenting Programme) (Amendment) Rules 2024 – Presented on 25 June 2024 (S. L. 1156 of 2024)
 - 1.51 Food (Amendment) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 31 May 2024 (S. L. 1136 of 2024)
 - 1.52 Smoking (Prohibition in Certain Places) (Temporary Smoking Facilities for Tax Free World Association Asia Pacific Exhibition and Conference 2024) Regulations 2024 – Presented on 15 May 2024 (S. L. 1133 of 2024)
 - 1.53 Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Cybersecurity (Amendment) Bill [Bill No. 15/2024] – Presented on 14 May 2024 (Pres. Co. 127 of 2024)
 - 1.54 Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Transport Sector (Critical Firms) Bill [Bill No. 16/2024] – Presented on 14 May 2024 (Pres. Co. 128 of 2024)

2 Announcement by Speaker – Mr Speaker made the following communication to the House:

"Hon Members, it was brought to my attention that Non-Constituency Member (NCMP) Mr Leong Mun Wai was interviewed for a podcast "Yah Lah BUT". This was hosted by Haresh and Terence and which appeared in YouTube and TikTok on various days in May 2024. Mr Leong also shared the podcast on his Facebook page.

During the interview, the following exchange took place between Haresh, the interviewer for "Yah Lah BUT", and Mr Leong:

"Mr Haresh said, 'Whenever the Speaker says, okay, any questions, you're one of the first to put your hands up.'

Mr Leong Mun Wai replied, 'And one of the last to be called.'"

Hereafter, I will refer to this as "the Statement".

Arising from the Statement, I had asked for information on the occasions that Mr Leong was called upon to make supplementary questions and clarifications in Parliament from August 2023 to May this year.

The record provides no basis for the Statement. It showed that Mr Leong was called for supplementary questions and clarifications earlier than other Members on many occasions, and that I had called him more than once on repeated occasions within the same item of business. Since Mr Leong was present during the relevant Sittings and would know the facts, the Statement is a gross misrepresentation of the proceedings of Parliament.

The Statement also suggests that Mr Leong is somehow treated differently from other Members and that his clarifications and supplementary questions have been de-prioritised. The Statement cast aspersions on my fairness and impartiality in calling Members. This is a reflection on my character as the Speaker, touching on my conduct of parliamentary proceedings.

On 22 June 2024, I wrote to Mr Leong asking him for the basis of the Statement made by him.

On 25 June 2024, Mr Leong replied to me. I will now quote the relevant extract of his email. It said:

"The Statement was a tongue-in-cheek response, and a light-hearted comment made at the start of the interview to lighten the mood in the context of a podcast. I had no intention whatsoever to cast any aspersion on your impartiality in Parliament.

I will be posting a Facebook clarification on the Statement to remove any misunderstanding."

On the same day, Mr Leong put up a clarification on his Facebook page, the relevant portion of which reads as follows:

"The Speaker has since brought to my attention that my quip may be construed as casting aspersions on his impartiality in calling MPs.

I would like to clarify that my comment was a tongue-in-cheek response to Haresh's comment ('one of the first to put your hands up' and 'one of the last to be called'), a response that was meant to be a light-hearted one made at the start of the interview to lighten the mood in the context of a podcast. This was in no way meant to be a comment on Speaker's impartiality. Speaker has, on various occasions, called me ahead of other Members."

In his 25 June 2024 reply, Mr Leong stated that he had no intention whatsoever to cast any aspersion on my impartiality in Parliament. He also requested for a meeting with me, before the next Parliamentary Sitting to clarify the matter in person.

I met Mr Leong in my chambers on 26 June 2024. At the meeting, I informed Mr Leong that I had checked the Parliamentary record since I was elected as the Speaker. The fact is, it is not true that whenever Mr Leong raised his hand to ask questions, he was one of the last to be called.

I told him that, even if he did not intend to cast aspersions on my fairness and impartiality in calling Members, the Statement does give rise to such an innuendo and reflects on my character in conducting Parliamentary proceedings.

Mr Leong repeated his explanation that the Statement was made in jest to make the podcast more light-hearted. He added that he never said the Speaker was unfair nor did he intend to make any insinuation about my character or conduct in Parliament.

I explained to Mr Leong that even if the Statement was made “tongue-in-cheek” and was a “light-hearted comment”, it does not change the fact that the Statement is attributed to me, that there was no basis for the Statement and it should not have been made.

At the meeting, Mr Leong stated that I had been fair to him when calling Members to ask questions. I thanked him for his clarification and asked Mr Leong to submit this in writing.

After the meeting with Mr Leong, I sent him an email on 26 June 2024, asking for a written statement from him in which he should:

(a) apologise for (i) giving the misleading impression that he was “one of the last to be called” whenever the Speaker asks for questions, and thereby misrepresenting the proceedings of Parliament; and (ii) implying that he was somehow treated differently from other MPs seeking to ask questions by the Speaker, which reflects that the Speaker is not fair and impartial; and

(b) acknowledge that I have conducted the proceedings of Parliament in a fair and impartial manner, and have treated him fairly.

Mr Leong’s reply was sent to me on 28 June 2024, the relevant portions of which read as follows:

“I would like to clarify that the Statement was a tongue-in-cheek comment made spontaneously in response to Haresh’s comment. It was a light-hearted comment made at the start of the interview to lighten the mood in the context of a podcast. Neither Haresh’s comment nor my Statement were scripted. We did not discuss beforehand what would be brought up during the interview.

I had no intention whatsoever to cast any aspersion on the impartiality of the Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to state for the record that I am satisfied with the time and opportunities that Speaker Seah Kian Peng has given me to ask questions since he took over as Speaker in August 2023. Mr Speaker has, on various occasions, called me ahead of other Members.”

In his reply, Mr Leong went further than his first reply to state that: (a) he was satisfied with the time and opportunities that I had given him to ask questions and (b) I had, on various occasions, called him ahead of other Members.

I wrote to Mr Leong again on 30 June 2024 informing him that I was grateful for his clarification (a) that he had no intention to cast aspersions on my impartiality as the Speaker, (b) that he was satisfied with the time and opportunities that I had given to him to ask questions, and (c) that I had on various occasions called him ahead of other Members.

However, I stated that his second clarification of 28 June 2024 did not contain the apologies requested for.

In order to close the matter, I gave Mr Leong a final opportunity to make a written apology and the necessary clarifications.

So, on 1 July 2024, Mr Leong wrote to me a third email – this was yesterday – the relevant portions of which read as follows:

“First, I thank you for accepting my clarification that I had no intention to cast aspersions on your impartiality as the Speaker.

Given that you accept that there was no intention to cast aspersions on your impartiality as the Speaker, I trust you will agree that it would not be accurate to make an apology that suggests any intention to mislead listeners on my part.

However, to bring this matter to a close, I retract my words spoken on the 'Yah Lah BUT' podcast stating that I was 'one of the last to be called' and confirm I had no intention to imply that I was somehow treated differently from other MPs seeking to ask questions by you as Speaker, which reflects that you as the Speaker am [*sic*] not fair and impartial. For the record, I confirm that this has not happened to me under your term as Speaker.”

So, in his third email of 1 July 2024, Mr Leong retracted the Statement and confirmed that he had no intention to imply that he was somehow treated differently from other MPs by me. Mr Leong also stated that such unfair treatment had not happened to him during my term as Speaker.

I have given careful and due consideration to the totality of Mr Leong’s explanations conveyed in his letters dated 25 June 2024, 28 June 2024 and 1 July 2024, and in his meeting with me on 26 June 2024.

I want to emphasise that Members sitting in the House will know what happened in our proceedings. If you then proceed to say that something different happened in the House, even in jest, you are wilfully misrepresenting our proceedings. The misrepresentation is made more serious if it reflects on the character of a fellow Member or the Chair. As honourable Members, we should not be engaging in such conduct, whether in jest or otherwise. That is why I felt an apology was to be forthcoming from Mr Leong.

Having said that, I also considered that Mr Leong had, firstly, agreed to retract the Statement that he made on the podcast; secondly, that he was satisfied with the time and opportunities that I had given to him to ask questions; thirdly, clarified that I had on various occasions called him ahead of other Members; and fourthly, confirmed that I had not treated him differently from other MPs in asking questions.

I am satisfied that Mr Leong’s clarifications taken in totality have mitigated the misleading impression of the Statement. I have also taken due note of his clarification that I have been fair and impartial.

The Clerk will be distributing all the above letters recording my exchanges with Mr Leong to Members for reference. I have also instructed that these be made part of the Hansard record.

I now consider the matter closed.

Going ahead, I would like to warn all Members that these are serious matters and such acts of contempt should not be repeated again, regardless of a Member’s intention.

The proceedings of Parliament and the conduct of Members, be it an Elected, Non-constituency or Nominated Member, Leader of the Opposition, Minister or any other office-holder, are not matters which should be taken lightly and cannot be made in jest. That is why section 31(g) and (h) of the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act 1962 makes it a contempt of Parliament to make any statement which reflects on the character of the Speaker or any Member touching on his conduct in Parliament or anything done or said by him in Parliament, or to publish wilfully any false or perverted report containing a gross or scandalous misrepresentation of any debate or proceedings of Parliament.

These rules are not new to Members. In a statement to Parliament just last year, on 18 April 2023, the Leader of the House had drawn Members' attention to the relevant rules relating to the conduct of Members to be observed both inside and outside of the House. The Leader of the House also circulated a note which highlighted, among other rules, section 31(g), (h) and (k) of the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act 1962. These provisions relate to statements reflecting on Members in their Parliamentary roles, statements reflecting on Parliament and false reports of Parliamentary proceedings.

Today's matter is not the first incident relating to Mr Leong. In her statement, the Leader of the House stated that the note was prepared having regard to recent incidents involving Mr Leong. I will not repeat what is contained in the handout, but I would encourage all Members to re-read it again.

At the heart of it, the issue is more than a collection of rules. It really about the proper functioning of our democratic system of Government. Parliament plays an integral role in the formation of a sound Parliamentary system and it is the forum where the Government explains and accounts for policies and laws to Members and through them, to the people. Our Members, past and present, have through the years earned the trust of the people. We need to uphold these rules and jealously guard that trust to maintain the confidence and respect our electorate has in our institution, and not bring Parliament into disrepute.

As the Speaker of Parliament, it is my duty to protect that trust by upholding the rules of Parliament, by being fair and impartial in the conduct of my duties and by maintaining decorum in Parliament. I trust that all Members will also play their part in upholding the rules of Parliament."

- 3 16 Questions for Oral Answer were answered during Question Time. With leave of Mr Speaker, 27 other Questions for Oral Answer were addressed in the subsequent Ministerial Statements.
- 4 Ministerial Statements – Pasir Panjang Terminal Oil Spill Incident on 14 June 2024 – (Minister for Transport, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, and Minister for National Development).
- 5 Anti-Money Laundering and Other Matters Bill – "to amend certain Acts to give effect to certain recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, to enhance the legal framework for preventing, investigating and prosecuting offences relating to money laundering, terrorism financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to provide for the manner in which seized property may be dealt with to preserve its value, to make certain amendments to the procedure by which seized property is dealt with, and to make consequential amendments to the Organised Crime Act 2015" – President's recommendation signified and Bill presented by the Minister of State (Ms Sun Xueling), on behalf of the Minister for Home Affairs; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 20/2024].
- 6 Land Surveyors (Amendment) Bill – "to amend the Land Surveyors Act 1991 and to make consequential amendments to certain other Acts" – presented by the Minister of State, on behalf of the Minister for Law; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 21/2024].

- 7 Good Samaritan Food Donation Bill – (Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, "That leave be given to introduce a Bill intituled 'An Act for the protection of certain food donors from liability for any death or personal injury resulting from the consumption of food donated by those food donors under certain conditions'".
- Bill to be introduced by Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang.
- 8 Good Samaritan Food Donation Bill – "for the protection of certain food donors from liability for any death or personal injury resulting from the consumption of food donated by those food donors under certain conditions" – presented accordingly by Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 22/2024].
- 9 ACRA (Registry and Regulatory Enhancements) Bill – read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.
- The House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill – (Second Minister for Finance (Ms Indranee Rajah)).
- (In the Committee)*
- Clauses 1 to 76 inclusive agreed to.
- Bill to be reported.
- Bill reported, without amendment; read a third time.
- 10 Corporate Service Providers Bill – read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.
- The House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill – (Second Minister for Finance (Ms Indranee Rajah)).
- (In the Committee)*
- Clauses 1 to 46 inclusive agreed to.
- Bill to be reported.
- Bill reported, without amendment; read a third time.
- 11 Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill – read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.
- The House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill – (Second Minister for Finance (Ms Indranee Rajah)).
- (In the Committee)*
- Clauses 1 to 21 inclusive agreed to.
- Bill to be reported.
- Bill reported, without amendment; read a third time.

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- 12 Adjournment – (Deputy Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, "That at its rising today, Parliament do stand adjourned to a date to be fixed."
- 13 Adjournment – (Deputy Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Parliament do now adjourn."; Debate arising.
- Question put – Resolved, "That Parliament do now adjourn."

Adjourned at 7.09 pm

SEAH KIAN PENG,
Speaker

MEMORANDUM

Parliament stands adjourned to a date to be fixed.
