

Highlights of PM Lee's speech



In lieu of the annual National Day Rally, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong delivered a major speech during the debate on the President's address, touching on various hot topics and the underlying importance of politics for Singapore's success.

Singapore's Covid-19 response

- The Covid-19 situation has been stabilised due to the efforts of the public service, political leadership, businesses and the people.
- But with hindsight, the government would have done things differently, such as acting sooner on the migrant worker dormitories and recommending the wearing of face masks sooner.

Foreign worker policy

- Work pass schemes are being adjusted because there is more slack in the job market, and Singaporeans are more able to take up PMET jobs.
- More is being done to ensure that employers treat Singaporeans fairly.
- Staying open to global talent allows Singapore to create more opportunities for its people.

Social safety nets

- After Covid-19, social support must be strengthened, but emergency measures cannot continue indefinitely.
- The government is not ideologically opposed to any solution, but ideas must not erode self-reliance, and must be fiscally sustainable.

Politics

- Singapore has been served well by political consensus, but new generations have different aspirations.
- With a stronger opposition presence in Parliament, the tone of debate will shift, but the government will take an open and constructive approach.
- Singapore must avoid polarisation. Citizens must engage in public discourse and reward political parties that do the right thing.