

Key players' positions

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During the heat of the exchanges at the Budget round-up, I articulated my suspicion. In doing so, I believe I was doing my duty as an MP to convey ground concerns, reactions and confusion. I did not accuse the Government of being untruthful as alleged, and neither had I intended to accuse the Government of dishonesty. I do not accept the over-characterisation the PAP MPs have put on my words and intentions, based on their own interpretation borne out of overactive imaginations and oversensitivity. Since the Government has now refuted it had any intention to raise GST immediately, I can accept that my suspicion then may not have been correct.

SYLVIA LIM



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I must say that we're deeply disappointed, that someone of her experience should accuse the Government of lack of candour even though the facts have been explained to her clearly, both in the public domain in statements made by MOF as well as here by Minister for Finance. I would like to say that her conduct falls well short of the standards of integrity and honourable conduct we expect of all members, and regrettably to say that it reflects the low standards which the member and her party have set for themselves with regard to commitment to truthful and honest debate in Parliament.

GRACE FU



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I think there's nothing wrong for the Government to come up earlier to say, look, we don't have intention to raise GST at this Budget, and that would have cleared the air and the confusion on the ground. And now, it's clear that the Government has no intention to raise GST at that point in time and Ms Lim's suspicion wasn't really correct at that point in time.

LOW THIA KHIANG



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Now, the Budget is a serious matter. We take great care in preparing the Budget and that the details are kept as secret until the day of the Budget because it has impact on the market, and not just in Singapore but internationally. So I do think that these are serious matters. Now what Ms Lim is saying is that your allegations claimed to reflect these views of the public... You had the chance over the last few days since you made the statement to check the Hansard, to check whatever facts. I think it is only right and honourable that you withdraw the statement, unless you have a basis for it.

HENG SWEE KEAT

