

The latest Cabinet reshuffle puts Singapore's fourth-generation ministers in more positions of responsibility. Here is a look at the emerging leadership (in alphabetical order, L-R)

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, 57
Minister for Foreign Affairs

- Joined politics in 2001.
- An MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC.
- The former eye surgeon is also Minister-in-charge of the Smart Nation initiative.
- Previous portfolios include Environment and Water Resources, Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Trade and Industry.
- Served as chairman of the Remaking Singapore Committee and the National Youth Council in the early part of his political career.
- A President's Scholar who studied medicine at the National University of Singapore.



Mr Chan Chun Sing, 48
Minister for Trade and Industry

- Joined politics in 2011. Immediately made Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports.
- An MP for Tanjong Pagar GRC.
- Takes over responsibility for the Public Service Division from Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean.
- Viewed as one of the three front runners to be Singapore's next prime minister.
- Former army chief.
- Became labour chief three years ago and earned a reputation for being a strong advocate for workers.
- A President's Scholar, studied economics at Cambridge University.



Mr Chee Hong Tat, 45
Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Education

- Joined politics in 2015. Singled out as potential minister due to track record in civil service spanning various ministries.
- An MP for Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC.
- In Parliament, has been forceful in calling out the opposition, such as when he called Workers' Party MP Sylvia Lim's "test balloon" comment on the GST hike false and vicious.
- Studied electrical engineering, computer science and economics at UC Berkeley.



Ms Grace Fu, 54
Minister for Culture, Community and Youth

- Joined politics in 2006. Made history in 2015 – as the first woman to helm a ministry as full minister, and first woman to be made House Leader, responsible for arranging government business in Parliament.
- An MP for Yuhua SMC.
- As Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, navigated some contentious issues, including the disparity in rewards for the able-bodied and disabled.
- Graduated in accountancy from the National University of Singapore.



Mr Heng Chee How, 56
Senior Minister of State for Defence

- Joined politics in 2001. Contested in Hougang SMC in the 1997 General Election, but lost to the Workers' Party's Mr Low Thia Kiang.
- An MP for Jalan Besar GRC.
- Made Minister of State in 2004 and promoted to Senior Minister of State in 2011. Portfolios held include Trade and Industry, National Development, Health and Prime Minister's Office.
- The former police superintendent led the police force in 1995 and has been with the labour movement since. He is deputy secretary-general of the NTUC.
- Studied economics at Cambridge University.



Mr Heng Swee Keat, 57
Minister for Finance

- Joined politics in 2011. Appointed a full minister shortly after.
- Identified as one of three front runners to be the next prime minister.
- An MP for Tampines GRC.
- Takes over responsibility for National Research Foundation from Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean.
- Championed "every school as good school" as Education Minister.
- The Cambridge University economics graduate was principal private secretary to then Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew.



Ms Indraneel Rajah, 55
Minister in the Prime Minister's Office

- Joined politics in 2001.
- An MP for Tanjong Pagar GRC.
- Left high-flying career as senior counsel at Drew & Napier for the Government in 2012.
- Was appointed Senior Minister of State for Finance and Law. Worked on legal reforms that help divorcing couples disentangle their lives as painlessly as possible and minimise adverse impact on their children.
- Key role in working with Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat in formulating the national Budget.
- Graduated in law from the National University of Singapore.



Mr S. Iswaran, 55
Minister for Communications and Information

- Joined politics in 1997.
- An MP for West Coast GRC.
- Remains in Ministry of Trade and Industry as Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations.
- Was a Deputy Speaker. Appointed Minister of State for Trade and Industry in July 2006.
- As Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), spearheaded merger of International Enterprise Singapore and Spring Singapore into Enterprise Singapore.
- An economics graduate from the University of Adelaide.



Dr Janil Puthuchery, 45
Senior Minister of State in Transport and Communications and Information

- Joined politics in 2011.
- An MP for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC.
- Also oversees GovTech as part of Singapore's Smart Nation push.
- Chairs the People's Action Party's youth wing Young PAP. Also chairman of OnePeople.sg, which promotes racial harmony.
- Was previously a paediatrician at KK Women's and Children's Hospital.
- Graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the Queen's University of Belfast.



Dr Koh Poh Koon, 46
Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry

- Joined politics in 2015. Fielded in the Punggol East by-election in 2013, but lost.
- An MP for Ang Mo Kio GRC.
- Made Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and National Development last May.
- At the Ministry of Trade and Industry, he focused on research and development, as well as entrepreneurship.
- A colorectal surgeon by training, he graduated from the National University of Singapore.



Dr Lam Pin Min, 48
Senior Minister of State for Health and Transport

- Joined politics in 2006.
- An MP for Sengkang West, a single-member ward.
- Appointed Minister of State in 2014 and promoted to Senior Minister of State in 2017.
- The ophthalmologist is trained as an aviation medicine specialist and served with the Republic of Singapore Air Force from 1995 to 2003.
- Studied medicine at the National University of Singapore.



Mr Desmond Lee, 41
Minister for Social and Family Development

- Joined politics in 2011. The youngest to have ever helmed a ministry.
- An MP for Jurong GRC.
- Became Minister for Social and Family Development last September, overseeing policy changes, including a pay hike for social service workers.
- The son of former Cabinet minister Lee Yock Suan was a deputy public prosecutor and state counsel before politics.
- Studied law at the National University of Singapore and University of Oxford.



Dr Mohamad Maliki Osman, 52
Senior Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs

- Joined politics in 2001.
- An MP for East Coast GRC.
- Has been mayor of South East District since 2011, and Minister of State since 2013.
- The former assistant professor has been a passionate champion of social work since joining politics and also worked on the redevelopment of Wisma Geylang Serai
- Studied social work at the National University of Singapore.



Mr Masagos Zulkifli, 55
Minister for the Environment and Water Resources

- Joined politics in 2006.
- An MP for Tampines GRC.
- Takes over portfolio of Muslim Affairs from outgoing Minister Yaacob Ibrahim.
- Fronted policies such as move to reduce carbon emissions through a carbon tax and a hike in water prices.
- Graduated in electrical engineering from the National University of Singapore.



Mr Ng Chee Meng, 49
Minister in the Prime Minister's Office

- Joined politics in 2015.
- An MP for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC.
- Former chief of defence force
- Recently named NTUC deputy secretary-general and expected to be the next labour chief.
- Took charge of schools in the Ministry of Education and oversaw revamp of the Primary School Leaving Examination scoring system.
- Graduated in electrical engineering from United States Air Force Academy.



Mr Ong Ye Kung, 48
Minister for Education

- Joined politics in 2015; Part of PAP team in Aljunied GRC that lost to the Workers' Party in 2011.
- An MP for Sembawang GRC.
- Appointed Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) after being elected and tasked to implement SkillsFuture.
- Was former principal private secretary to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.
- Widely seen as one of three front runners to be next prime minister.
- Economics degree from London School of Economics and Political Science.



Ms Sim Ann, 43
Senior Minister of State in Communications and Information and Culture, Community and Youth

- Joined politics in 2015; Part of PAP team in Aljunied GRC that lost to the Workers' Party in 2011.
- An MP for Sembawang GRC.
- Appointed Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) after being elected and tasked to implement SkillsFuture.
- Was former principal private secretary to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.
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Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, 49
Speaker of Parliament

- Joined politics in 2011.
- An MP for Marine Parade GRC.
- Mr Tan's departure from the Cabinet last year, to be appointed Speaker of Parliament, surprised many. He remains in the 4G group that will pick the next PM from among them.
- As Social and Family Development Minister, achievements include introducing KidStart to level the playing field for disadvantaged children and pushing for unwed mothers to get 16 weeks of paid maternity leave. Was Manpower Minister before that.
- The economics graduate from the London School of Economics served in the Singapore Armed Forces for nearly 24 years.



Ms Josephine Teo, 49
Minister for Manpower

- Joined politics in 2006.
- An MP for Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC.
- Most recently took on roles as Second Minister for Home Affairs and Manpower. Also dealt with the hot-button topics of immigration and a dwindling total fertility rate when she oversaw the National Population and Talent Division.
- As a former assistant secretary-general of the National Trades Union Congress, she is familiar with labour issues. Has also headed human resources at agencies such as the Economic Development Board.
- Graduated in economics from the National University of Singapore.



Mr Edwin Tong, 48
Senior Minister of State for Law

- Joined politics in 2011.
- An MP for Marine Parade GRC.
- Member of the Select Committee set up to look into the problem of deliberate online falsehoods in Singapore and how to counter them.
- The senior counsel will leave law firm Allen & Gledhill, where he heads its litigation and dispute resolution department as well as its restructuring and insolvency practice, to take up his political appointment.
- Studied law at the National University of Singapore.



Mr Lawrence Wong, 45
Minister for National Development

- Joined politics in 2011
- An MP for Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC.
- In his years as National Development Minister, has focused on helping young couples get homes more quickly, including shorter waiting times for new Build-To-Order flats. Also oversees the development of the new Jurong Lake District.
- Was previously Minister for Community, Culture and Youth.
- Was former principal private secretary to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.
- Studied economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

