

4G ministers playing key roles

Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat highlighted the efforts of 12 of his colleagues in addressing the various challenges brought about by the pandemic.



Tackling Covid-19

- DPM Heng noted that Singapore has to learn to live with the virus for some time.
- Health Minister Gan Kim Yong and National Development Minister Lawrence Wong, as co-chairs of the multi-ministry task force tackling Covid-19, are leading national efforts to battle the pandemic.



Food resilience

- The disruption of supply chains as a result of curbs on travel has highlighted the importance of food security. DPM Heng said Singapore will strengthen its resilience, such as through its "30 by 30" plan to produce 30 per cent of its food locally by 2030.
- Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Masagos Zulkifli is overseeing this effort, as well as plans to rejuvenate the island into a cleaner and greener Singapore.



Economic transformation

- Singapore continues to be one of the most competitive economies in the world, and started transforming for the future economy five years ago.
- DPM Heng noted that businesses and unions partnered the Government to develop and implement Industry Transformation Maps for each industry, and Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing is overseeing economic transformation efforts.



Job creation

- The effort to grow Singapore's economy is not just about creating jobs, but generating better ones for Singaporeans.
- DPM Heng said Manpower Minister Josephine Teo, Education Minister Ong Ye Kung, and Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Ng Chee Meng, who is National Trades Union Congress secretary-general, are working hard to make this happen.
- Workers will get help in preparing to take on these jobs through the SkillsFuture movement. The education system will also be strengthened, with "every school a good school", and multiple pathways to success will be created.



Digital inclusion

- The circuit breaker has revealed vulnerabilities in society's midst, said DPM Heng, such as seniors finding it hard to use digital tools and services.
- Minister for Communications and Information S. Iswaran, who is overseeing the digitalisation push, will also look at digital inclusion, working with community partners to help seniors bridge the digital divide through programmes like Seniors Go Digital.



Caring for Singaporeans

- Those who face difficulties coping with new stresses will receive emotional and psychological support from the Government and fellow Singaporeans, such as through the National Care Hotline.
- "Be assured that, in Singapore, no one will be left to walk alone. You will be cared for if you fall on hard times," said DPM Heng.
- This effort will be overseen by Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development Desmond Lee, and Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Finance and Education Indranee Rajah.



Singapore's place in the world

- Singapore's strengths at home will allow it to be a valuable member in the global community, where it can play a role in trade, innovation, rule of law, action on climate change, or pandemic management, said DPM Heng.
- Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan will continue to keep Singapore's flag flying high, he said, adding that a trusted and reliable Singapore relevant to the world would in turn attract investments here, and give Singaporeans an edge in seeking opportunities at home and abroad.

