

“ THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW

We have devoted significant resources to preserve lives and livelihoods... But what will continue to distinguish Singapore are our investments for the future... Singapore must never stop thinking of the future, even as we respond swiftly to meet current needs. This is how we stay exceptional, and staying exceptional is how we survive.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
HENG SWEE KEAT



BUDGET 2021: EMERGING STRONGER TOGETHER

- \$11 billion to safeguard lives, jobs and businesses; more help for hardest-hit sectors
- \$5.4 billion to support hiring of 200,000 locals; provide over 35,000 traineeship and training opportunities
- Pay rise for healthcare workers; details later
- Petrol duties up 10 to 15 cents per litre; rebates to ease impact
- Goods and services tax (GST) for all goods bought online from 2023
- Up to \$90 billion in bonds to be issued to finance long-term infrastructure
- \$700 million targeted extension to Jobs Support Scheme, with help tapering off
- GST hike between 2022 and 2025; and “sooner rather than later”
- \$900 million Household Support Package, to help all families, especially the less well off
- Government to draw on reserves for second straight year; net increase of \$1.7 billion brings total to \$53.7 billion

ABOVE, LEFT: Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat ditched his car and walked across the street from his office in the Treasury building to Parliament to deliver his Budget speech yesterday.

ST PHOTO: JASON QUAH

• See The Big Story A2-19, Editorial A28 •