

Speech by Party Chairman Mr Gan Kim Yong
At People's Action Party Convention 2021
On Sunday, 28 November 2021

Secretary-General Lee Hsien Loong,
Brothers and Sisters from the NTUC,
Comrades,

1. Good morning and welcome to our 67th Party Convention.
2. Being able for many of us to meet face-to-face today re-affirms how far we have come during this challenging time. Seeing the faces of many familiar party stalwarts is also a timely reminder of our commitment to stand as one for Singapore and Singaporeans.

The Purpose

3. For the past 67 years, we have persisted in our mission “to build a fair and just society where the benefits of progress are spread widely to all.”
4. This vision has transformed Singapore from mudflats to a metropolis and delivered better lives for every Singaporean. It also guides us in every decision we make as a Party, in good times and bad.

The People

5. Singaporeans have stood by us. They have made sacrifices in spite of the hard decisions we have to make sometimes, and they have always stood ready to play their part and defend Singapore.
6. But we have to be clear about one thing -- We do not have an innate right to their support. They support us because they believe in us, in what we are doing,

in making progress that uplifts everyone. If we want their continued support, we have to keep to our promise, keep listening, and keep delivering better lives for them.

7. And we wouldn't be able to do this without a special group -- the People of the PAP. You preserve, protect, and defend what our Party stands for. If our activists – every one of you – did not show up day after day, week after week, year after year, to serve with unwavering conviction, we would never have achieved anything like we have.
8. Yesterday, we recognised our many activists who have served with dedication, passion, and integrity. Today, I would again like to thank all our activists for your contributions. Thank you.
9. I want to highlight one special comrade. Later, Sec-Gen and I will present the Meritorious Service Medal to Comrade Koo Tsai Kee.
10. Comrade Koo has served the Party for over three decades. He was an MP from 1991 to 2011 and contributed significantly to our nation-building with his roles at many Ministries.
11. Today, he continues to serve in Tanjong Pagar GRC, and is a mentor to many of our younger Branch Chairs and activists beyond the GRC. Thank you, Comrade Koo. Your years of hard work and service to Singapore is a shining example to us.

The Pursuit

12. My fellow comrades, we have much work to do. The stakes are high. Singaporeans want us to do good, and we will do better!
13. As Sec-Gen said at last year's Conference, "the PAP cannot stand still." Yes, we are moving forward, and we will continue to walk alongside all Singaporeans.

14. Singaporeans tell us they want a better home - one that is inclusive, sustainable, and full of opportunities. Many of them are stepping up to partner us in this effort to write the next chapter of the Singapore story.
15. Many of our youths are keen to participate in deciding their own future and are speaking up like never before. We must let them feel that they have a space to own, and a part to play in our Party and in charting the path forward for Singapore.
16. As the ruling Party, we have the opportunity – and the solemn obligation – to take action and lead Singapore towards this vision, for and with every Singaporean.

Conclusion

17. Everyone can and must be part of this pursuit. You can take action with us, whether you are a Party activist or not. Come onboard and join us in this journey.
18. The road ahead will not be easy. When the going gets tough, remember why we are doing this. Then we will rise above all difficulties. Fix our eyes on the goal, and we will emerge stronger as one.
19. Thank you.