

Speech by Chairperson of PAP WW Mother's Day Celebration 2022 Joan Pereira

Good afternoon, fellow comrades, ladies, and gentlemen,

Mothers are nurturing. Mothers are protective. Mothers are strong. Qualities that one would use to describe mothers are also qualities that would fit caregivers well. Regardless of their individual roles or circumstances, all mothers are caregivers too. And we are taking the opportunity this Mother's Day to honour and support our women and caregivers.

Just last month, Parliament endorsed the White Paper on Singapore Women's Development to build a fairer and more inclusive nation together. One of the key focus areas is to provide better recognition and support for caregivers, so that as a society, we can acknowledge and appreciate the critical role played by caregivers, many of whom have often made great personal sacrifices when carrying out their caregiving duties.

We also know of many caregivers around us who continue to juggle multiple roles in the family and in the workplace, and they need our support as well, be it from the government, from companies or from each of us in society. It can be something as simple as lending a listening ear, a helping hand, or if it's within our abilities, to offer to take care of some of their caregiving duties for a while so that they can have a break.

Today's bazaar has been specially curated by the fantastic organising team from PAP Women's Wing as a meaningful celebration of people coming together and standing together in support of our women, especially our caregivers. Many of the entrepreneurs that you will meet are also very strong women who have boldly stepped forward to chase their dreams and aspirations. Therefore, I would encourage all of you to look out for something that you can bring home from today's bazaar, for the caregivers and mothers in your lives.

*With my fellow parliamentary colleagues, MPs in the Central Singapore District, we have raised \$50,000 for five charities located within the district. They are Dyslexia Association of Singapore, Homeless Hearts of Singapore, Home Nursing Foundation Senior Activity Centre, Montfort Care - Kreta Ayer Family Services and REACH Family Service Centre (Bishan). This year, PAP Women's Wing decided to raise funds on a district-level, starting with the Central District, to give greater visibility to the good work done by these charities. Through our fundraising effort, we hope to reach out to the different groups within the community, including the low-income, homeless, and vulnerable families and help them. We hope fellow Singaporeans will do likewise to help the vulnerable in our midst. I would like to thank our community partners for contributing to this meaningful cause, fellow MPs and party activists for driving this effort, and most importantly the charities and social enterprises who have been helping the vulnerable within the community.

Happy Mother's Day!