

LKY100 Tree Planting Day
Welcome Address by Chairman of the Action for Green Towns
Taskforce and Member of Parliament for Jalan Besar GRC Dr Wan
Rizal on 7 May 2023

DPM Lawrence Wong

Fellow MPs of Jalan Besar GRC

Councillors of Jalan Besar Town Council

Comrades, residents, friends and our energetic children.

Good morning!

This year, the People's Action Party marks the birth centenary of our founding Secretary-General, Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

As we commemorate LKY100, we reflect on his bold vision and the values that have steered both the Party and Singapore through the years.

We commence our LKY100 commemoration initiatives with Tree Planting Day: So we have one hundred families here today joining us ready to plant one hundred trees. This symbolises our commitment to a greener future for Singapore.

In the coming months, a full line-up of programmes will be announced, lighting the passion of a new generation of Singaporeans as we march forward into a brighter, greener future.

The PAP has always been a champion for sustainable issues. We have been taking about it spoken up on this while. We have spoken up in Parliament, and came up with policies to improve the environment for every Singaporean.

Our unwavering dedication to environmental stewardship was ignited by Mr Lee Kuan Yew himself, who foresaw the importance of greening Singapore during the rapid urbanisation in the 1960s.

As Singapore's Chief Gardener, he launched the first nationwide tree-planting campaign in 1963 and introduced the 'Garden City' vision in May 1967.

His goal was to transform Singapore into a city with lush greenery and a clean environment, improving the quality of life for every Singaporean, every citizen, and making our nation a global destination.

With every passing decade, generations of Singaporeans, you and I, have reaped the rewards of this national effort. You have seen the breathtaking transformation from 'Garden City' to 'City in Nature'.

Despite the relentless pressures of development, our island remains a lush oasis.

The PAP launched the Action for Green Towns (AGT) initiative in 2021. The AGT has been fostering collaboration between town councils, residents, sustainability experts, and advocates as they work towards making every PAP-managed town zero-waste, energy efficient and greener city.

The AGT has made significant strides over the years. They have been proposing many things and we have done a lot of things within the community. For instance, we have installed LED lights, we have been promoting solar power, and we have been creating more green spaces within the neighbourhoods. These are small testaments of our efforts.

We have also launched the sustainability zones. If you have noticed, we have launched a sustainability zone across the 15 PAP Towns. At the same time, you look at Jalan Besar GRC, you will see each of our divisions have our own sustainability zones. Now these Sustainability Zones have recycle bins, and of course machines that take in EV, paper, recycling textiles. This is part of our efforts to make our cities towards zero waste.

We are also committed to breathing new life into old materials. For example, last year at Marsiling-Yew Tee, Ms Hany Soh, AGT's Vice Chairperson, launched our innovative upcycling project where old MRT train parts like seats, handrails, intercom

panels and light covers have been repurposed as benches, handrails, and plant holders within the neighbourhoods. This is again our trust, our showcase and dedication towards a circular economy.

As our young Singaporeans plant trees today, they are embracing Mr Lee's values for a green Singapore. They are the torchbearers, ensuring his legacy lives on for generations to come.

To further celebrate LKY100, we will organise Tree Planting Days across all 15 PAP Town Councils in the coming months. We aim to plant 10,000 new trees island-wide by year's end.

We extend a heartfelt invitation to Singaporeans of all ages to join us in this noble endeavour, building a better home for all, where each generation enjoys an improved living environment.

Through our collective Action for Green Towns, let us strive with an unwavering determination to uphold Mr Lee's vision of a clean, green, and sustainable city that every Singaporean can be proud to call home.

We are the custodians of this beautiful land. So let us stand united in our pursuit of a greener future, working hand in hand to create a sustainable future for our children and their children after them.

Let us plant the seeds of hope and growth, nurturing a better tomorrow for all.

Thank you.