

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY SIM ANN, PAP WOMEN'S WING CHAIRWOMAN**  
**AT THE PAP WOMEN'S WING MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION 2023, 13 MAY 2023**

Retired Women MPs  
WW Activists  
Our sisters from NTUC  
Partners and Friends

Happy Mothers' Day!

Each Mothers' Day, the PAP Women's Wing honours the mothers of Singapore.

**On the Cherished Family Recipe Collection**

Mothers are the bedrock of our families. They are caregivers, they are breadwinners, they are the shapers of our beliefs and values. We know that one way in which many mothers show their love and care for us is by feeding us delicious meals, dishes and treats that they have cooked or baked themselves.

A meal is not just about sustenance and filling our stomachs. Each dish is a representation of our culture, our heritage and our identity. Many recipes have their own special story and evokes unique memories.

In a country like Singapore, the dishes that every family holds dear are very likely to be influenced by many cultures and by our diverse heritage.

And in passing our recipes to the next generation, they also contribute to strengthening the Singapore identity and keeping our communities together.

I am sure all of us can think of at least one particular well-loved dish that only our grandmothers or our mothers know how to cook. Of course, many of us are very lucky, so we would know of many such dishes.

Some of these are heirloom recipes handed down over the generations through tacit knowledge, but are not written down anywhere.

As an example, my mother cooks every fortnight for my meet-the-people session volunteers. Every time she cooks, it's something different. But there is one dish we all wait for, and that is a very special chicken rendang that my mother learned when she was a young girl from her aunt, who was a true-blue *nyonya* and a very accomplished cook.

Of course, there are many versions of chicken rendang out there, but I humbly submit to you that this one will win your stomach and your heart!

Ladies and gentlemen, just think of the treasure trove that we can assemble if we were to contribute all the well-loved and unique family recipes that we know of.

It would be a fitting way to honour the skills and knowledge of our home cooks, and also a very meaningful legacy for future generations.

This is why I am so excited about the project that the Women's Wing has embarked on for this year – which is to put together a special collection of inter-generational recipes contributed by our community volunteers. I know so far we have put 60 (recipes) together, and we have also very specially photographed and prepared them for publication. More of the 60 will be put online soon.

Titled the ***Cherished Family Recipe Collection***, each recipe is tied to the personal memories of its contributor.

For instance, Mdm Lucy Koh is 83 years old, and has always been very active in her constituency, providing cooking lessons and taking care of the community garden.

One of the signature dishes she has taught others was her Nyonya Stuffed Chilli Fish. She's not able to join us for the event today, but I am really glad she has generously shared her recipe with the larger community today – and everyone will get to try it later at the reception!

You can also look forward to sampling dishes and desserts like Ayam Kalio, Lamb Pickle and Ondeh Ondeh later – I will let our representatives from the Organising Committee, MPs Joan and Cheryl entice you with more details and stories later on.

### **WW Mothers & Children Package**

As we honour all mothers, there is a group of mothers and their families that are never far from the minds of Women's Wing and our activists – these are residents who may need a little extra help in tackling daily challenges.

With cost of living being top of mind for many Singaporeans, we would all like to do a bit more for this group.

So, this Mother's Day, the Women's Wing has raised more than \$630,000 in partnership with the PAP Community Foundation, to put together a **Mothers and Children Package**.

It will be in the form of supermarket vouchers which our ground volunteers can help to disburse to mothers and children in need. This will come above and beyond the usual Government assistance schemes. Some of you may also have received messages about the upcoming Cost of Living special payment, as well as the additional help for seniors that will be disbursed in June.

So what we're doing here today is our modest effort for the mothers and children in the community, and we hope that this gives them that little bit of extra help over and above Government assistance schemes.

### **We can't do this alone**

Every little bit helps, and we are very grateful for donors and supporters who rallied to our call.

My deepest appreciation goes to NTUC Fairprice, Sheng Shiong supermarket, and all our donors who did not hesitate to step forward to join us for this occasion, to make this difference for our women among us and their children who need help the most.

It takes a collective, and whole-of-society effort to not just support and uplift our women – but very importantly, to protect them as well.

Here I would like to mention some other efforts that Women's Wing MPs as well as our activists have been working on over the years. Just earlier this week in Parliament, the Government announced new enforcement processes to better protect, restore and heal families, especially women in the face of divorce.

The PAP Women's Wing has long advocated and rallied for stronger community support for mothers who have to go it alone, especially in helping them with challenges involving childcare, housing and finances. We know that if we help the mothers, we will also help the children, and there will be a brighter future and outlook for all.

This new Family Justice Reform Bill is important, because it makes family law proceedings simpler and more efficient, and facilitates more sustainable maintenance outcomes. I hope it will bring some measure of relief to mothers struggling with the toll of divorce.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our activists and our volunteers and partners who have been so active in our Conversations on Women's Development, as well as in our regular advocacy on behalf of women.

But our work doesn't stop here. For women, our work never ends! We will continue to take action. We will do all we can to keep pushing for change to ensure that women feel safe, supported and empowered in every aspect of their lives.

## **Closing**

Our Organising Chairperson Comrade Yen Ling isn't able to join us today, but let me thank her, alongside Comrades Joan and Cheryl, as well as everyone in the Organising Committee who put together today's event.

My heartfelt thanks also to Select Group Pte Ltd and our food consultant, Mr Jeremy Nguee, for your partnership and support.

If you are joining us today for the first time – a very warm welcome from all of us. I want to thank you for standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us on our mission towards ensuring every woman in Singapore is enabled to live her life to the fullest.

It is a journey that will be made more meaningful because of each and every one of you who is here with us. Very importantly, this includes our men too. The Women's Wing always welcome men to join us, to ally with us, and to partner us. Thank you very much for being here.

Once again, Happy Mothers' Day everyone!

Thank you.