

National Solidarity Party



GE Manifesto 2020

IDEOLOGY & PRINCIPLES

Political Ideology

- The National Solidarity Party (NSP) is a democratic, pragmatic and progressive political party that treasures values towards building an open society – A society for all.

Party Core Values

- NSP believes in the human potential, dignity and rights of all people, regardless of race, language or religion.

Mission Statement

- NSP exists to uphold democracy and to provide constructive ideas to benefit the Society.

Party Objectives

- NSP shall build a pluralistic democracy by winning seats in parliamentary elections.

Political Rights

- All citizens should have the right to vote freely without fear, coercion or discrimination by race, age, gender, occupation or belief.

POPULATION GROWTH

Proper Planning

- Singapore should undertake its population growth gradually in alignment with its infrastructure readiness. A sudden population growth without good foresight and proper planning should never be repeated. The population growth should be organic with initiatives to increase our total fertility rate, where the Government shall provide parents options to a comprehensive security net for their children (up to 18 years of age).

NATIONAL ECONOMY

- NSP is committed to an open and free competitive economy in which the Government's economic responsibilities shall generally be confined to the formulation of policies to enhance national development and economic growth.
- While a steady inflow of sizeable foreign investments should be sustained consistently, a balanced ratio between foreign versus local investments shall be maintained.
- Local SMEs and micro businesses shall be assisted to lower business costs, increase productivity and enhance competitiveness.
- NSP believes in the human potential, dignity and rights of all people, regardless of race, language or religion.

Taxation

- The Government shall not increase further the current Goods and Service Tax (GST) of 7% to 9% and look beyond the GST mechanism for alternative source.
- More tax credits shall be given to citizens caring for their aged parents and school-going children. These credits can be the form of tax rebates in their annual income taxes.

Privatisation

- Certain essential entities are an integral part of the national infrastructure and they shall be sustained by a responsible government. Such entities shall not depend on shareholders' interest alone as is the norm with privatised organisations.
- The Government justification for the privatisation of certain national entities fell short because some of these entities are either monopolies or oligopolies, at present and in the foreseeable future.

Employment

- Citizens should be entitled to foremost priority in the engagement and employment of workforce.
- The Government shall establish a minimum living wage policy to protect low-wage earners from being exploited, and the Tripartite Alliance for Fair and Progressive Employment Practices (TAFEP) shall ensure non-tolerance to employment discrimination.

PUBLIC HOUSING

Core Responsibility of HDB

- HDB shall resume its core responsibility i.e. provision of quality public housing for the masses at cost-plus prices.

Transparency

- HDB shall release comprehensive detail of the costs (land, construction, development, administrative, etc) of each project on its website before launching it, to allow evaluation of its cost efficiency.
- Financial Assistance
- The Government should render more assistance to those with genuine financial difficulties.

Subsidised Rental Flats

- More subsidized rental flats should be developed to reduce the waiting time for those citizens who are in dire needs. Such flats should be prohibited from being used to house foreign workers.

Restriction on PRs

- HDB flats owned by PRs should be prohibited from resale within 8 years' of ownership, and any profit realised from the sale thereof should be subject to taxation to prevent speculative transaction. Such flats should also be prohibited from being leased out either wholly or in part.

HEALTHCARE

Comprehensive Medical Insurance

- The Government shall undertake to provide an affordable Comprehensive Medical Insurance (CMI) with coverage to include hospitalisation and outpatient treatments, including treatment for COVID-19 virus, at private or restructured hospitals, polyclinics and affiliated private clinics. It shall also cover all pre-existing medical conditions of children.
- The CMI should be made mandatory for all Citizens, with the Government contributing at least 50% of the premiums payable. It may also be extended to foreign workers, PRs and foreigners living in Singapore, but without any Government subsidy.
- Full payment of the CMI premium for those citizens under Public Assistance should be undertaken by the Government.

Generic Drugs

- The Government shall promote the use of generic drugs which are comparatively cheaper with Free Trade Agreements that may restrict any rights to use generic drugs should be carefully reconsidered.

Aging Population

- Urgent attention should be given to our aging population's needs for more beds, medicine, medicinal facilities and qualified healthcare workforce.

EDUCATION

Extensive Purviews

- Subsidized educational services should be extended to include the nursery and pre-primary levels as well and the administration of both Nursery and Pre-primary education should be placed under the purview of the MOE instead of the MCYS.

Class Size

- NSP had since 1997 pushed for the reduction of class size to an optimal size of 20, to improve the teacher: student ratio to enable better interaction, thereby enhancing the learning process. Now with the new experience of home-based learning digitally and virtually, we can explore boundless opportunity to provide our students holistic learning.

Scholarship Bonds

- Citizens on government scholarships shall serve their obligations in Singapore, but not necessarily with a specific ministry / statutory board, to spread their talents, networks and benefit the whole economy.

CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND

Withdrawal from CPF during times of hardship

- Citizens shall be allowed to withdraw temporarily from their own CPF Ordinary Accounts, whenever they are retrenched or in times of hardship. A household can withdraw a maximum amount of \$3000 per month up to a 6-month period, capped at 20% of the Ordinary Account. Such withdrawals should be fully repaid when the Account Holder is gainfully employed.

Education Support

- To provide a further boost for continuing education in this current knowledge-based economy, the list of CPF-approved tertiary providers should be expanded both in scope and availability.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Transportation Cost

- Public transportation as an essential convenience of modern living should be manifested in terms of availability, accessibility and affordability. It should also be well-maintained to remain safe, convenient and reliable at all times.
- Public transport operations shall be monitored closely to prevent unreasonable fare hikes. All person with disabilities and receiving public assistance shall be eligible for concessionary passes.
- All Concession Pass holders (students, Senior Citizens, PWDs, and Public Assistance recipients) should be allowed to enjoy concession rate at all times.

DEFENCE

National Defence

- Singapore should maintain a national defence force strong enough to safeguard its sovereignty, independence and security.
- The Nation should adopt a moderate and restrained posture and support regional cooperation and joint defence, in order to contribute to a stable and peaceful environment in the region.

Defence Expenditure

- The national defence expenditure should be reduced progressively over several years so that it could be capped at a steady 4.5% of the GDP.

Internal Security Act

- The Internal Security Act shall not be abused to suppress political dissidents or to create fear amongst the electorate. All political / security detainees should be entitled to fair trials. POFMA should be reviewed and abolished if necessary.