

## **Detailed Notes: Youth Policy Forum Opening Address and Plenary Dialogue “Perspectives to Bring Singapore Forward”**

Date/Time: Saturday, 24 August 2024, 10.30am – 11.30am

Venue: Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Cassia Ballroom

The dialogue started with an opening address by Prime Minister Mr Lawrence Wong, followed by a dialogue moderated by Mr Yuvan Mohan and Ms Teng Zi Ying on how Singapore can achieve a new social compact that reflects the aspirations and needs of all segments of society, and how youths can play a part in building this new social compact.

### **OPENING ADDRESS BY PRIME MINISTER, MR LAWRENCE WONG**

1. Prime Minister opened the session by sharing that based on the Forward Singapore exercise, there was a collective desire among Singaporeans for a refreshed Singapore Dream. This new vision encompassed a Singapore where everyone could find their own path and become the best possible version of themselves, where all could flourish and thrive on their own terms, in ways that were less prescribed and more open.
2. Prime Minister emphasised the importance of the youth’s role in shaping Singapore’s new future, encouraging them to embrace their unique abilities and talents without unnecessary comparison and pressure. He shared that everyone should feel the freedom and space to find their own path in life, and the Government would support youth in their goals.
3. Prime Minister also shared that as part of the refreshed Singapore Dream, Singaporeans should also consider how they could contribute to society and the country, beyond individual pursuits. He shared that the Government would create more opportunities for the youth to play a role in shaping Singapore through concrete actions, one of which being the Youth Panels<sup>[1]</sup>.
4. Prime Minister emphasised the Government’s commitment to giving serious consideration to the Youth Panels’ recommendations. He also shared that in addition to the Youth Panels, the

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<sup>[1]</sup> The Youth Panels is an initiative for young Singaporeans to co-create policies with Government agencies. The four inaugural panels – #LifeHacks, #JobHacks, #TechHacks and #GreenHacks – tackle crucial topics like financial resilience, careers and employment, digital well-being, and environmental sustainability. The panels are made up of more than 80 young people aged 15 to 35 years old.

Government would create future platforms and opportunities for young people to get involved in shaping the society they envisioned for Singapore.

5. Prime Minister concluded his address by encouraging citizens to continually strive for excellence, not only for themselves but also for their fellow citizens and the country. He emphasised that this spirit of continuous improvement and collective effort was crucial for moving Singapore forward into the future.

Prime Minister's full address can be referenced [here](#).

Notes recorded by the National Youth Council Youth Leadership and Engagement Team.