

Press Release

MOF Invites Views and Suggestions for Budget 2020



The Ministry of Finance is seeking views and suggestions from all Singaporeans in preparation for Budget 2020, which is scheduled to be presented next February. Individuals, households, and businesses are welcome to provide feedback on topics such as business growth, training and employment, support for families, and support for seniors.

2. This effort complements year-round outreach and engagement by MOF and other government agencies in seeking feedback and inputs from individuals and organisations.
3. In the spirit of SG Together, we are seeking public views on longer-term issues. Specifically, we invite suggestions on how we can form stronger partnerships to address future opportunities and challenges facing Singapore.
4. Meanwhile, MOF's Budget website (www.singaporebudget.gov.sg) is now online. It will provide latest updates on Budget 2020, as well as general information on Singapore's national Budget process.

Budget 2020 Feedback and Engagement Channels

5. Singaporeans are encouraged to provide their suggestions for the coming Budget through various channels across a six-week period starting from Monday, 2 December 2019, until Friday, 10 January 2020. The public can visit the REACH Budget 2020 microsite (www.reach.gov.sg/budget2020) to submit their views. The feedback topics can be found in Annex A.
6. During the feedback and engagement period, REACH will hold Listening Points across Singapore to gather views and ideas for Budget 2020. These Listening Points are easily accessible, open feedback booths set up in prominent areas, such as the Toa Payoh HDB Hub and Raffles Place, for Singaporeans to give their feedback in person. Details of these Listening Points can be found on the REACH Budget 2020 microsite.

7. REACH will also convene a Pre-Budget 2020 Dialogue on Tuesday evening, 3 December 2019, involving about 120 members of the public. The dialogue will be chaired by Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Finance and Education. She will be joined by the Chairman of REACH, Mr Sam Tan, who is also the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Social and Family Development.

8. MOF is partnering the People’s Association (PA) and its grassroots organisations in their Ask Kopi Kakis initiative to reach out more widely to Singaporeans in the heartlands. During the public feedback phase, grassroots volunteers will set up Ask Kopi Kakis’ kiosks in the community to make it more convenient and accessible for Singaporeans to give their views and suggestions for Budget 2020. The engagement with citizens will take place at 25 locations island wide. Details of PA’s Ask Kopi Kakis’ kiosks can be found in Annex B.

9. In addition, Singaporeans can provide views and suggestions for Budget 2020 via any of the following channels:

Feedback Channel	Contact Details
Singapore Budget Website	www.singaporebudget.gov.sg
REACH Budget Microsite	www.reach.gov.sg/budget2020
REACH Singapore Facebook	www.facebook.com/REACHSingapore
REACH Singapore Instagram	www.instagram/reachsg
REACH Singapore Feedback Form	www.reach.gov.sg/about-us/contact-us/feedback-form

Partnering One Another to Build a Home for All

7. “The Budget is a strategic financial plan to address both near-term issues and also how we build our future Singapore together. What we put into the Budget reflects our values as a people, our aspirations as a society and our direction as a nation,” said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Mr Heng Swee Keat.

8. Deputy Prime Minister Heng added:

“Over the years, we have invested heavily in developing Singaporeans and building Singapore. Through close partnerships with all in our people, private and public sectors, we have created new opportunities for Singaporeans to improve their quality of life.

With changes coming fast and furious, we need to prepare ourselves to ride new waves by continuing to build our capabilities and transform our economy. At the same time, we remain committed to strengthening support for fellow Singaporeans, so that we can all progress together. This is how we will build our nation – where every Singaporean has a strong sense of belonging and a part to play in realising our shared future.

I urge all Singaporeans to contribute actively and join us in charting the future for Singapore.”

Issued by

Ministry of Finance, REACH, and PA
Singapore
1 December 2019

Annex A: Budget 2020 Feedback Themes & Questions

We now seek feedback on how else/differently the Government and people can collaborate for our future. The five thematic questions are in the table below:

1	<p><u>Security and External Relations</u></p> <p>With ongoing threats of terrorism and cyber warfare, it is important for Singaporeans to play an active role in contributing to national efforts to strengthen domestic security and cybersecurity, and to build community resilience.</p> <p>a) Besides existing efforts, such as the SAF Volunteer Corps, the SGSecure movement, SCDF's Community First Responders, and the Government Bug Bounty programme, how can Singaporeans play a further part in enhancing this country's security?</p>
2	<p><u>Business Growth / Innovation / Costs</u></p> <p>There remains very good business potential in Singapore and the region, even in today's uncertain environment. (Consider, for instance, the ongoing US-China trade tensions.) We need to press on actively with transformation, and place ourselves in a strong position as a Global-Asia Node of Innovation, Technology and Enterprise to thrive in the longer run.</p> <p>There are many government schemes to deepen enterprise capabilities and enhance our competitive position. They include the Enterprise Development Grant (EDG), the Market Readiness Assistance grant (MRA), the Productivity Solutions Grant (PSG), SMEs Go Digital, Start Digital, and various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).</p> <p>a) Amidst the current uncertainties, which areas of enterprise capabilities do businesses need in order to compete better?</p> <p>b) How are the internationalisation efforts in your industry progressing? What are some challenges and opportunities in internationalisation for your industry or company arising from ongoing US-China trade tensions?</p>
3	<p><u>Training / Employment</u></p> <p>We wish to encourage Singapore workers to continually adapt and acquire new skills throughout their careers. Meanwhile, employers will need to invest in their workers to have sufficient talent to grow their firms.</p> <p>There are available training and employment schemes to support firms and workers, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adapt and Grow (A&G) programmes, which help workers adapt to changing job demands, re-skill for new careers, and stay agile for new opportunities.• SkillsFuture, which supports lifelong learning. Firms that send workers for skills training also receive support, such as course fee subsidies. <p>a) What are some barriers to workers taking up more individual-based training, and employers sending their workers for training?</p> <p>b) What are some ways to address these barriers?</p>

4	<p><u>Support for Families</u></p> <p>With rising singlehood and smaller family sizes, the level of financial and non-financial support from family members may decline.</p> <p>There are schemes to encourage families to offer mutual care and support, such as housing schemes like the Proximity Housing Grant (PHG) and the Married Child Priority Scheme (MCPS), plus tax reliefs for topping up the CPF accounts of family members.</p> <p>a) How can we review and improve our schemes to further support the community and families in caring for one another?</p>
5	<p><u>Support for Seniors</u></p> <p>Singapore's population is ageing rapidly, and people are living longer. Many older workers wish to stay active and continue working. However, there remain some barriers to older worker employment.</p> <p>There are plans to support seniors who wish to continue working. Steps taken include the raising of the retirement age and re-employment age to 65 and 70 respectively by 2030, alongside increases in the CPF contribution rates for older workers.</p> <p>a) How can we further encourage and support older workers in continuing employment?</p> <p>b) For seniors who are unable to work longer due to health or personal reasons, what are some ways in which their family, relatives or community groups could partner the Government to support their needs?</p>

In the spirit of SG Together, we would also like to seek Singaporeans' views on longer-term issues through the following question:

1	How can we form stronger partnerships to address future opportunities and challenges facing Singapore?
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Annex B: Details of PA's Ask Kopi Kakis' Kiosks

S/N	Date/Time	Venue	General Location
1	8 Dec 2019, 10am – 5pm	Pasir Ris Elias Community Club 93 Pasir Ris Drive 3, Singapore 519498	Pasir Ris
2	8 Dec 2019, 3pm – 6pm	Blk 415 Woodlands St 41, Singapore 730415	Woodlands
3	14 Dec 2019, 6pm – 9pm	Blk 2, Upper Boon Keng Road, Singapore 380002, Communal Hall 2	Jalan Besar
4	14 Dec 2019, 6pm – 9.30pm	Taman Jurong Community Club 1 Yung Sheng Road, Singapore 618495	Taman Jurong
5	18 Dec 2019, 4pm – 7pm	Bishan MRT Station	Bishan
6	20 Dec 2019, 7pm – 9.30pm	Blk 39 Bendemeer Road, Singapore 330039, Pavilion	Jalan Besar
7	20 Dec 2019, 5pm – 8pm	Toa Payoh East Community Club 160 Lor 6 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319380	Toa Payoh
8	20 Dec 2019, 5pm – 8pm	Toa Payoh South Community Club 1999 Lor 8 Toa Payoh, Singapore 319258	Toa Payoh
9	21 Dec 2019, 2.30pm – 4.30pm	Sembawang Community Club 2125 Sembawang Road, Singapore 758528	Sembawang
10	21 Dec 2019, 5pm – 7pm	The Woodgrove (Commercial Mall) 30 Woodlands Ave 1, Singapore 739065	Woodlands
11	21 Dec 2019, 11am – 12pm	Oasis Waterpark @ Nee Soon East 307 Yishun Central, Singapore 760307	Yishun
12	22 Dec 2019, 9am – 12pm	Bukit Gombak Neighbourhood Centre Blk 372 Bukit Batok St 31, Singapore 650372	Bukit Gombak
13	22 Dec 2019, 4pm – 7pm	Blk 814, Choa Chu Kang Ave 7, Singapore 680814	Chua Chu Kang

S/N	Date/Time	Venue	General Location
14	22 Dec 2019, 11am – 12pm	Yishun Park Hawker Centre 51 Yishun Ave 11, Singapore 768867	Yishun
15	26 Dec 2019, 11am – 3pm	Blk 134 Ang Mo Kio Ave 3, Singapore 560134, Amphitheatre	Ang Mo Kio
16	27 Dec 2019, 7pm – 9pm	Community Plaza, behind Blk 15 Bedok South Road, Singapore 460015	Bedok
17	28 Dec 2019, 6.30pm – 9pm	Heartbeat@Bedok 11 Bedok North Street 1, Singapore 469662	Bedok
18	29 Dec 2019, 9am – 12pm	Rivervale Plaza 118 Rivervale Dr, Singapore 540118	Sengkang
19	31 Dec 2019, 6pm – 8pm	Downtown East Atrium 1 Pasir Ris Cl, Singapore 519599	Pasir Ris
20	4 Jan 2020, 9.30am – 2.30pm	Tiong Bahru Community Centre 67A Eu Chin St, Singapore 169715	Bukit Merah
21	4 Jan 2020, 10am – 5pm	Bukit Panjang Community Club 8 Pending Road, Singapore 678295	Bukit Panjang
22	4 Jan 2020, 9am – 1pm	Ci Yuan Community Club 51 Hougang Ave 9, Singapore 538776	Hougang
23	4 Jan 2020, 9am – 6pm	Zhenghua Community Club 1 Segar Road, Singapore 677738	Bukit Panjang
24	4 Jan 2020, 7pm – 8.30pm	Blk 480, Tampines Street 44, Singapore 520480	Tampines
25	5 Jan 2020, 8.45am – 2pm	Radin Mas Community Club 51 Telok Blangah Crescent, Singapore 098917	Bukit Merah

For media enquiries, please contact:

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About Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance aims to advance the well-being and development of Singapore through Finance. The Ministry strives to achieve a balanced budget through prudent and sustainable fiscal policies, foster a regulatory environment conducive to business and enterprise, ensure prudent investment of the Government's reserves and other public funds, and sets policies for government procurement, customs regulation, accounting standards and business regulation.

We achieve this together with our departments (Accountant-General's Department, Singapore Customs and Vital), and statutory boards/bodies (Accounting & Corporate Regulatory Authority, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore, Tote Board and Singapore Accountancy Commission).

For more information, please visit www.mof.gov.sg.

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About REACH

REACH is the national feedback and engagement unit under the Ministry of Communications and Information. Our mission is to connect Singaporeans to the Government through feedback and engagement on national issues.

For more information, please visit www.reach.gov.sg.

About People's Association

The People's Association (PA) is a statutory board established on 1 July 1960 to promote racial harmony and social cohesion, and to act as a bridge between the Government and the people. We offer a wide range of community programmes and volunteering opportunities for Singaporeans from all walks of life. Our network includes more than 1,800 grassroots organisations (GROs), over 100 Community Clubs, five Community Development Councils, National Community Leadership Institute and PAssion WaVe. More information at www.pa.gov.sg.