

18 May 2018

Sister Mary Liew
President
National Trades Union Congress

Dear *Sister Mary,*

I am writing to tender my resignation as Secretary-General of the NTUC and from the NTUC Central Committee with effect from 22 May 2018. This follows the request from the Prime Minister for me to return to serve in the Government.

Before joining the Labour Movement, I was greatly inspired by the contributions of different generations of NTUC leaders, who fought hard and tirelessly for our working people. They strongly believe that a job is the best welfare for our working people. I leave now with a firm appreciation of how our Labour Movement has and will continue to help our working people attain better skills, better jobs and better lives.

Our Labour Movement is certainly an 'Unusual' one. We take an approach markedly different from our counterparts elsewhere in the world – focusing on addressing the evolving needs of the workforce with an expanded suite of products and services that is supported by a growing network of resources and partners accessible to members.

In our quest to be a strong Labour Movement, we aim to remain relevant to the needs of our working people in times of change. Over the years, I have witnessed how NTUC is reorganising ourselves to be representative of all working people in the five limbs of the Labour Movement, namely Unions, U Associates, U SME, U FSE, and Migrant Workers. Like many in our Labour Movement, I was immensely proud that at the Ordinary Delegates' Conference in 2017, we reaffirmed our goal to serve all working people in Singapore. We secured a decisive vote, and received a strong mandate to update our Constitution to expand our Labour Movement network to better represent the needs and aspirations of all working people in Singapore.



How do we better ensure Singaporeans and their families are able and continue to stretch their hard-earned dollar? This is an evergreen concern of NTUC. To better support our members, our NTUC Social Enterprises are leveraging the combined strength of the group to address major concerns such as cost of living, health and ageing, and the fear of being left behind. Our social enterprises are evolving too, in areas such as digital transformation and data, to better serve customers via critical enablers.

With increasingly volatile economic headwinds and previously unforeseen disruption to businesses and jobs, I have seen and heard the fears, concerns and aspirations of our working people. Will they continue to have a job today, and will their children have good jobs tomorrow? Our aim is not just to protect jobs, but more importantly, to protect our working people. My challenge to the Labour Movement is rather than just “placing today’s unemployed into today’s jobs”, we need to do better by “placing today’s unemployed into tomorrow’s jobs”. Ultimately, the greatest achievement is to “place tomorrow’s unemployed into tomorrow’s jobs”.

We may be focused on the present, but we need to constantly look ahead together with our partners in the Government and the employers. Relevant and timely training is critical, and NTUC has ramped up our training efforts to support the national-level Industry Transformation Maps (ITMs). The Labour Movement is a critical lever to deliver curated training, upskilling and job placement initiatives across all sectors. We also recently formed a Training Council to oversee the curation and delivery of relevant training, helping to translate the ITMs into training for workers.

With our extensive ground network across all sectors and different worker groups, we are able to identify the training needs of different workers, and work with training providers, institutes of higher learning and companies to make available curated training for workers. Singaporeans are then able to access these upskilling opportunities easily to move into future jobs via our training network and resources.

I wish the Labour Movement great success as the work to protect and advance the interests of our working people gather pace. I am confident of the future, as I have



seen the strong commitment and unwavering efforts of NTUC's staff and our tripartite partners.

I may be officially stepping down as the Secretary-General of NTUC, but I will not be leaving the Labour Movement. My new portfolio in the Ministry of Trade and Industry is, in fact, an extension of the work in NTUC to ensure that our working people can continue to benefit from good jobs, and our businesses will have the opportunities to become more competitive and remain steadfast in their quest to take care of our working people. I look forward to working closely with the Labour Movement and our partners to write the next chapter of our country's economic development, together.

I am grateful for the privilege of working hand-in-hand, shoulder-to-shoulder with so many of our sisters and brothers in the Labour Movement. The Labour Movement will always have in me – a friend, a partner, and a supporter.

Yours sincerely

Chan Chun Sing