Annex C - Transcript of Media Soundbite Delivered by Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry Dr Tan See Leng on 13 December 2022, Tuesday, on the Launch of Manpower for Strategic Economic Priorities (M-SEP) Scheme

I am announcing the launch of M-SEP, the Manpower for Strategic Economic Priorities scheme. It is a very targeted, very focused scheme which aims at helping needle-moving enterprises; those enterprises and companies that are very innovative, that have put in significant investments and that are also ramping up to internationalise. Because we believe that Singapore being a very small market, internationalisation is the way to go.

Our policies are moving in tandem, also, with the reduction in DRC (Dependency Ratio Ceiling) quotas and the sub-DRC quotas that would come in next year. We wanted to provide enterprises that are very innovative, that have made significant investments and that have also very firm and very aggressive internationalisation plans, the complementary foreign manpower to help them. We will work very closely with the companies to make sure that they have the requisite Work Permits, S Passes, depending on the sectors that they are in, so that they can continue to grow and to grow very aggressively. And that would then translate into a lot more opportunities for our local Singaporeans to move up the career path and at the same time, allow firms to get the type of technical expertise and talent needed.

At the same time, because this is coming in alongside the new refinements in our Employment Pass framework, and the launch of the new Overseas Networks and Expertise Pass, we believe that this would actually provide a very firm, reinforced and also strategic plan forward for enterprises to remain competitive, and put ourselves on the world map.

我们今天很高兴宣布我们另外一个新的计划 - 经济战略人力计划 (M-SEP)。这计划将帮助推动新加坡经济战略的企业，能够国际化 - 通过投资、创新或国际化的项目增长。这个计划提供有针对性的外国劳动力灵活性，以帮助这些企业的人源。这计划配合我们工作准证（e-pass）和顶级专才准证 （ONE pass）的框架。我希望这计划能够帮助我们新加坡的企业促进他们的发展。这也能够给我们本地的金英更加多的机会，并且提高他们的技能，是一个双赢的计划。