

## Update on Tripartite Workgroup on Lower-Wage Workers

Since it was convened last October, the Tripartite Workgroup on Lower-Wage Workers and key stakeholders have been working quickly to study how it can uplift the wages and well-being of our lower-wage workers.

2 One of the Workgroup's tasks is to look at significantly increasing the number of lower-wage workers covered by Progressive Wages. To this end, it has agreed to extend the PWM to the Waste Management, Food Services, and Retail sectors, as well as to in-house workers in Cleaning, Security and Landscape sectors. The PWM will help workers benefit from meaningful wage growth, and a clear progression for their wages to rise alongside better skills, job responsibilities and productivity.

3 The Workgroup will continue to study all options to achieve Government's aspiration to cover all sectors with Progressive Wages. It will complete its work by the end of this year.

### **Waste Management sector**

- PWM (announced in Jan 2021) will cover up to 3,000 local workers.
- The Tripartite Cluster for Waste Management targets to issue its recommendations for the PWM in the second half of this year.
- For outsourced sectors such as the Waste Management sector, some lead time will be needed to allow service buyers and providers to update their contracts, to take into account higher PWM wages for workers.

### **Food Services and Retail sectors**

- Contain large numbers of lower-wage workers;
- PWM would benefit up to 80,000 local workers;
- The Tripartite Cluster committees for each of these sectors target to issue recommendations for the respective PWMs by the end of this year.

### **Extension of existing PWMs to in-house workers in Cleaning, Security and Landscape sectors**

- Benefits up to 50,000 local workers;
- Tripartite partners and stakeholders will work out an implementation timeline.

### **Alliance for Action for Lower-Wage Workers**

3 The Workgroup also recognises the importance of promoting stronger societal support for firms paying progressive wages, and advancing the well-being of workers. On this front, the Government has accepted the Workgroup's call and will launch an Alliance for Action for Lower-Wage Workers to bring together community stakeholders keen to start ground-up projects to uplift lower-wage workers. These projects may include ground-up campaigns to appreciate LWWs and initiatives to improve their working environments. We are also closely studying other ways to promote societal support for progressive wages as well as the broader well-being of workers.