



# Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



## Tan Kin Lian has a predicament

Controversy rocked the initial stages of Tan Kin Lian's presidential campaign as old Facebook posts resurfaced, shedding light on some... unpresidential aspects.

These posts contained references to seeing "pretty girls" in public, raising more than a few eyebrows. The uproar was not without merit—citizens pointed out that his repeated remarks objectified women, a sentiment difficult to dispute.

Holding a position in the public eye demands accountability, particularly when it comes to words and actions that will be scrutinised should he take on the role of Singapore's president.

One can't help but wonder if we might have brushed aside similar comments during Mr Tan's initial bid for the presidency back in 2011. A relatively obscure figure at the time, he found himself at the bottom of the pile, securing a mere 4.91% of the votes and forfeiting his deposit.

Fast forward to the present and Tan Kin Lian enters the race once again, this time fuelled by determination and more than a decade's worth of devoted followers on Facebook. While there's a palpable elevation in societal consciousness towards problematic conduct, Singapore is also home to individuals who vehemently oppose the surge of 'woke culture'.

He might not lose his election deposit this time around, given his newfound popularity—and the support of those who view their vote for him as a stance against the encroachment of 'wokeness'. The political landscape, it seems, has shifted, marking the evolution of both the candidate and the society that scrutinises him.

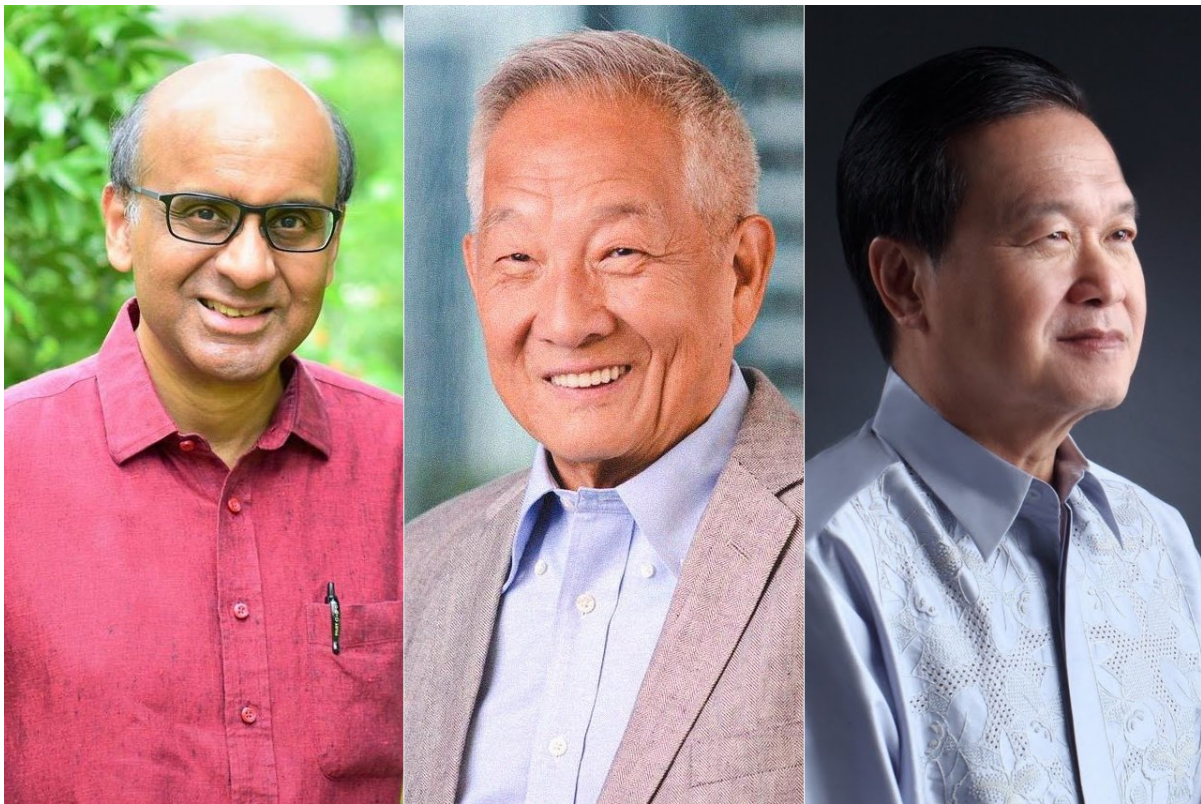
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*P.S. We've also learnt some of you found your way here through your friends. If you haven't already, **subscribe** to our weekly newsletter today!*

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## A Presidential Cheat Sheet



The stage is set for a three-cornered fight in Singapore's Presidential Election. There's veteran politician Tharman Shanmugaratnam, ex-GIC chief investment officer Ng Kok Song, and former NTUC CEO Tan Kin Lian.

There's more than that to them, of course—but not everyone has the time to study

each of their green and red flags. Here's a quick introduction to the three men to consider on Sept 1 as our future president.

## **Choosing the Next President: A 2023 Cheat Sheet for Singaporeans**

# **George Goh's Swansong**



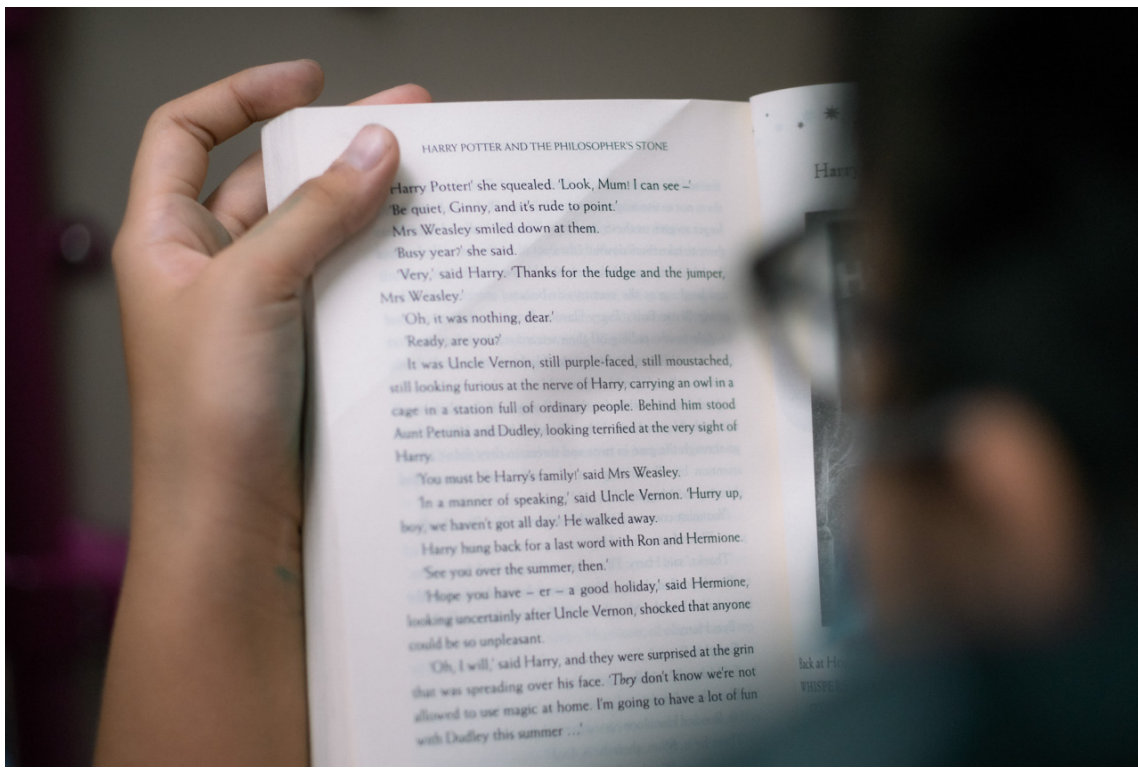
George Goh is out of the race, but not without a final farewell. RICE correspondent Hykel Quek was invited to his (lavish) private home in Holland Road to witness his swansong.

Together with journalists from Singapore's media publications, he saw a man frustrated to have his presidential journey end before it even officially started. This would be his last time in the public spotlight. Or is it just beginning?

## **George Goh's Presidential Election Swansong Is a Chaotic Ballad of Hope**

# **Speak Easy**





Yes, we've all seen the memes of George Goh and his calls for "chain" (change) in Singapore. But aside from public figures who get ridiculed for how they speak, what does it say about our perception of 'good' English?

RICE associate editor Kimberly Lim unpacks the notions of literacy, privilege and sociolinguistics in Singapore—along with the very real fear felt by minority communities about being judged for their spoken English.

**Judging People On Spoken English: Fair or Faux Pas?**

## **Life (and MOPs) Don't Always Go According to Plan**



Thanks to the updated public housing model, living in the city centre will no longer be a pipe dream reserved for the privileged elites. It's a bittersweet dream though. Sure, you're living in prime areas—but are you willing to wait five years for your BTO house to be built? And then, there comes the 10 years required before you can consider to let it go.

The trajectory of our lives rarely takes the most efficient route, so you can only imagine how this new system might be received once it gets going in 2024.

**Long BTO MOPs Are Essential.  
But What Happens When Life  
Gets Messy?**

## **Working Hard or Hardly Working**



This story—anecdotes gathered from Singaporeans about what they do to skive from working—is officially the top-performing piece of August so far.

Which begs the question: Are y'all really looking for tips and tricks here? Because you know we have more. A lot more.

### Things Singaporeans Do To Appear Busy at Work

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## Short Grains, or *piping-hot topics by the spoonful.*

- Confusion in Tanjong Pagar after nearly 10,000 voters mistakenly receive test prints of poll cards. (*via CNA*)
- A billion-dollar money-laundering raid reeled in a big fish: No Signboard Seafood's former director. (*via The Business Times*)
- Bomb threats hit 18 locations across Singapore, including government buildings. Nothing of security concern was found. (*via The Straits Times*)



- National sprinter Shanti Pereira missed out on making it to the finals of the World Athletics Championships. She smashed her national record though. (via CNA)
  - Presidential candidate Ng Kok Song has chosen not to hang up campaign posters and banners, citing environmental sustainability. (via TODAY)
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In collaboration with Smart Nation Singapore, we bring you the story of 32-year-old Baron Ang, the affable fishmonger taking his family's age-old trade into social media and beyond.

**The Digital Fishmonger Bringing  
The Kampung Spirit Online**

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## **We like to go out! We also hate our weather.**

But as much as our team is full of contradictions, we simply can't go by our weekend without checking out some things. If you're still deciding on where to go, let us highlight some unmissable events for you:

1. NYC-based artist Jon Burgerman is staging his first solo exhibition here.

2. We propose a weekend of back-to-back plays: [2:22 - A Ghost Story](#) and [Tender Submissions](#).
3. Umi—the Japanese-American R&B singer behind TikTok hit ‘Love Affair’—is making [her live debut](#) in Singapore.
4. Malaysian comedian Keren Bala Devan is bringing his one-hour comedy special [The Angriest Man in Asia](#) to The Projector.
5. A night of experimental electronic soundscapes and dance floor bangers with local DJ collective [Strange Weather](#) at T:>Works space 72-13.

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