

Show Of Solidarity



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The mood of the 7,000-strong crowd at the May Day Solidarity Walk along Jalan Benaan Kapal was as bright as the sea of vibrant coloured "Upturn The Downturn" t-shirts they wore, demonstrating the strong support for the Labour Movement and the journey towards the upturn.

The atmosphere was brightened further by the panorama of bold painted faces, cheerful balloons and cheery umbrellas, belying the gloom of the global crisis. Even the shadow of grey overcast clouds that threatened to rain could not dampen the spirits of union members, union leaders, management partners and their families and friends, who turned up in full force – some with three generations in tow, from babies in prams to able-bodied elderly folk.

This colourful show of solidarity overflowed on to the concert, where the happy contingent thronged the driving range of the Marina Bay Golf Course, turning the event into what Singapore Labour Foundation Chairman Mah described as "a cause more meaningful than golf".

Organised by Young NTUC, the exciting one-and-a-half hour concert brought the house down with the excellent singing, dancing and performing talents of 25 Young NTUC members, creating an atmosphere worthy of being crowned Singapore's very own "Woodstock".

Young NTUC activists may not have contributed in monetary terms. But through our passion, we can certainly help to uplift the spirits of all union leaders and members to 'Upturn The Downturn'. I'm very proud of them because they sang and danced their hearts out to tell the world that we believe in solidarity, and we believe in U."

Josephine Teo (left in picture on the right), NTUC Assistant Secretary-General and Young NTUC Advisor, who is also the Vice-Chairperson for the May Day Solidarity Walk and Concert



As wonderful as the performances were, the highlight of the show was undoubtedly the "Upturn The Downturn" song performed with unabashed passion by NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say and his team of directors. Sung to the tune of the popular Hokkien song, "Ai Piah Jia Eh Yiah" (You Gotta Fight To Win), it resonated well with the crowd and had Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Mrs Lee, Manpower Minister Gan Kim Yong, Singapore National Employers Federation President Stephen Lee singing and laughing along.



During this economic downturn, it is very heartening to see and feel the strong support from all our union members and working partners who came together to celebrate this significant event that marked the success of our U Care fund raising efforts. We have achieved a feat that is not easy, especially during this financial crisis. Through this, we, the Labour Movement, have shown that despite the hurdles we face, we can overcome all challenges with our determination and 'never-give-up' spirit. We hope to assist more needy members and their families in this difficult period with the U Care Fund."

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Fang Chin Poh, National Transport Workers' Union General Secretary, who is also Co-Chairperson of the May Day Solidarity Walk and Concert



Upturn the Downturn

In this downturn workers may feel sad
When it's upturn we will all be glad
Go for help at e2i
Or call union hotline
Cut costs, save jobs
Growth for Singapore
With some help from SPUR and also Jobs Credit
U Care Fund and all our SEs
For u From U
Let us stand in pride and unity
We are pro-workers
We are pro-business
Upturn the Downturn!

Performed to the tune of "Ai Piah Jia Eh Yiah" (You Gotta Fight To Win), NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say and directors (right and below) had the crowd – including Prime Minister and Mrs Lee Hsien Loong, and SLF Chairman Mah Bow Tan – cheering.



The More We Get Together... Happy management, union and workers at the May Day Solidarity Walk. We are HDB and HDBSU! Picture and story contributed by Fang Lee Hin, HDB Staff Union.



I have very little time with my two sons, so I took the opportunity to come to this event and spend some time with the family. I've been to a few events and this is quite successful because it is organised and attended by a lot of people. It also has many different colours, so I find it quite unique."

Jessie Neo (right), 36, U Family Member



The Solidarity Walk was clearly a show of the Labour Movement's team spirit. From the young to the old, each of the participants made it to the finishing line. This is what the Labour Movement is all about – the 'can-do' spirit. From preparing props to singing along the walk, all of us took part as one big, united family. That really made it very special."

Sukartini Mawar, 39 (front, left), Young United Workers of Electronic and Electrical Industries member