

Ms K Thanaletchimi Public Service Medal (PBM)

Ms K Thanaletchimi is the president of the Healthcare Services Employees' Union (HSEU). She holds a Masters in Health Science Management from the University of Sydney. For her contributions both at work and in the union, she received the National Day Efficiency Award in 2002. She was also conferred the Comrade of Labour Award in 2006 by the National Trades Union Congress for her dedication and selfless contribution to the Labour Movement.

In addition to being HSEU President, Ms K Thanaletchimi is also an elected member of the NTUC Central Committee and is Chairman of both the NTUC Women's Committee as well as the NTUC Membership Committee. From March 2016 to September 2018, she served as a Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP) of Singapore – the Labour Movement's 11th union representative since 1992.

Besides sitting on various committees in NTUC, Ms K Thanaletchimi also sits on other governmental agencies, and national institutions' committees. She is also involved in several committees with our tripartite partners, notably MediShield Life Council, People's Association Board, Industrial Arbitration Court Panel Member and the Education and Domestic Services Industry transformation Committee. She is also a member of the Land Transport Masterplan Advisory Panel.

Ms K Thanaletchimi is a firm believer in transparency, information sharing, knowledge and trust building, and promoting good labour-management relationship between workers and employers. She is a strong advocate of staff welfare, productivity, lifelong learning and workplace safety. She also believes in working closely with employers to achieve win-win outcomes. Having served in the public healthcare sector for the last 31 years, she is keenly aware of the concerns and aspirations of our healthcare workers in the public healthcare sector.

Ms K Thanaletchimi has been serving the Healthcare sector union for the last 27 years with a strong desire to improve the well-being of healthcare workers. With the interests of workers at heart, she has been championing for older workers, low-wage workers, women in the workplace as well as PMEs. She actively promotes the forging of cordial and harmonious ties with employers and is passionate about union work, leveraging the strength of her fellow union officials and working as a team.

Ms K Thanaletchimi has a heart for serving others and is true to her purpose and beliefs. She is always on the ground, speaking and engaging with workers, so as to be an effective voice for them – especially on issues that matter to society and Singapore's future. During her tenure as NMP from 2016 to 2018, she demonstrated how she not only talks the talk, but also walks the walk.

She continues to advance the interests of workers on issues such as jobs and training, healthcare and especially with regard to women's work prospects. Through raising such issues, she hopes that over time, this would help improve women labour participation rate. With almost 27 years of Union work under her belt, Ms K Thanaletchimi has gained insights on the issues that our ordinary working people face. These include issues relating to workers' employment rights, as well as whether they have adequate opportunity to upskill and upgrade to remain relevant to the needs of their industries. She, along with her team, initiated the Healthcare Academy in 2018 to train healthcare workers in adaptive, technology and technical skills so that they can be future ready, resilient and continue to stay relevant amidst industry transformation. To date, she has championed various issues that are close to her heart, including:

- Making every company a Pro-Family Friendly Company.
- Supporting pro-creation, employability and employment for women in the workforce so that all three can co-exist harmoniously.
- Providing better support for single mothers especially for the working group.
- Linking social network access to every workplace as she is a firm believer that an emotionally stable worker is a much creative and productive worker in all aspects.
- Leveraging SkillsFuture to better equip working women as well as those who wish to enter the workforce.

As president of HSEU, Ms K Thanaletchimi often speaks up on issues that impact workers' employment and employability in the healthcare sector. These include:

- Attracting and incentivising more Singaporeans to work in the Healthcare industry especially in the Intermediate Long Term Care Sector (ILTC) so as to enable a gradual reduction in the reliance of foreign worker. She is also a firm believer in leveraging technology to raise the standards of the delivery of care.
- Constantly innovating and redesigning jobs to equip healthcare workers with better skills and career opportunities for all levels of workers whilst exploiting latest technology to support continuous employment regardless of age.

By advocating these issues, she hopes to help our healthcare workers achieve better wages, better welfare and better work prospects.