

## **Mrs Chiam for Potong Pasir: Their say**

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The Straits Times asked 16 Potong Pasir residents and political analysts for their reactions to MP Chiam See Tong naming his wife as his political successor. Here are some of their views.

### **Wait and See**

'Ever since we heard Mrs Chiam might take over, the neighbours have been discussing the issue. Some are afraid a woman wouldn't be as effective in the seat. If it's Chiam See Tong, we will support him without a doubt. But now, I haven't made up my mind yet.'

Madam Alice Poon, 54, working in sales and a Potong Pasir resident since 1984

### **She'll Do a Good Job**

'Mr Chiam has done a good job here, I respect him a lot. He is not so fit now but he works very hard still. I will support Mrs Chiam because she is his wife, and I know she will do a good job just like he has done.'

Cabby Wong Kok Fai, 62, a Potong Pasir resident for about 10 years

### **No Renewal**

'I'm quite disappointed that the successor has to be a close relative of Mr Chiam See Tong. The opposition is always talking about democracy and checks and balances. But these do not seem to apply to their own party.'

Mr Liew Kai Khiun, 37, a lecturer who moved to Potong Pasir two years ago

### **Give Her a Chance**

'I am willing to give her a chance - I think she can do a good job, she has been accompanying Mr Chiam for some time. It's good that she is taking over... she might be able to win some sympathy votes because of Mr Chiam's condition.' (Mr Chiam suffered a mild stroke in 2008.)

Retiree Peter Poh, in his 70s. He has lived in the area for more than 20 years

### **Tactical Move**

'Mr Chiam might be sending a message to (Reform Party chief) Kenneth Jeyaretnam that he is not going to let internal party differences stop him from joining forces with the Reform Party. It also signals his resolve to contest a GRC and he might be preparing his Potong Pasir constituents for that.'

Political observer Eugene Tan, a law lecturer at Singapore Management University

## **Earning Trust**

'The question is, does the public trust family members of people they already trust, or others outside that circle? At the end of the day, it is still up to the people of Potong Pasir to decide what they want, and whether they trust Mrs Chiam.'

Dr Gillian Koh, senior research fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies