



## PRESS RELEASE

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Tammy Ho, Sr Manager, Marketing & Communications

+65 9790 6340 / [tammy.ho@ipsos.com](mailto:tammy.ho@ipsos.com)

# What worries Singaporeans, inequality and playing a part in policy development – Ipsos report

**Singapore, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020** – In the lead up to the announcement of Singapore budget 2020 on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Ipsos conducted a survey amongst a nationally representative sample of 913 Singapore citizens aged 18 to 64 years old to understand what their top concerns are. The survey was conducted over the period of 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

### What worries Singaporeans

The top areas of concern for Singaporeans are the job market & unemployment (48%), healthcare (42%) and poverty & social inequality (33%). This is followed by climate change (28%) and immigration control (25%).

**Tan Hui-Ching, Director of Public Affairs at Ipsos in Singapore** said, “Given the current health crisis, it is naturally a top concern for Singaporeans at this time. But our data shows that Singaporeans are confident that the country is well-equipped to manage the crisis. What is interesting to see is Singaporeans’ concern for poverty and social inequality. While Singapore has one of the highest per capita income in the world, there is still a significant proportion of those who are vulnerable - nearly 20% of households who have a monthly household income of less than \$2,000 - who hope to benefit from this year's budget.”

### Inequality among those with disabilities and between social classes

When thinking about opportunities in general, Singaporeans say there is some level of inequality accorded to different demographics of the population – be it by age, gender, race, religion or even educational background and language. 38% of Singaporeans feel that most inequality is experienced by people with disabilities and 29% say inequality is most apparent between social classes.

## PRESS RELEASE

Another aspect in which inequality is observed by 27% of Singaporeans is that among people of different income levels. Nearly 4 in 5 respondents agree that Singapore's economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful.

On government subsidies, more Singaporeans (60%) feel that the ideal scenario would be where low-income groups receive more government subsidies than high-income groups. This view is held by respondents across all income levels. 25% of Singaporeans are of the opinion that equal amount of subsidies should be given to all citizens and 16% feel that only low-income groups should receive the subsidies.

### **Singaporeans want to be involved**

Most Singaporeans (90%) agree that it is important that Singaporeans are actively engaged in matters related to local policies and issues. 4 in 5 Singaporeans say their opinions are important (85%) and that they are qualified to share their opinions (83%). However, they do believe it is the government's responsibility to encourage citizens to be more engaged in matters relating to local policies and issues.

**Tan** adds, "We have seen many instances of ungracious behaviour of Singaporeans, around us or discussed in the media. But it is heartening to see that Singaporeans are interested in equality and that they feel it is important to have fair policies that look after the most vulnerable in our society."

**-END-**

*Please see next page for important notes*

# PRESS RELEASE

## Note to Editors

## About the study

- The survey was conducted online between 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020, among a nationally representative sample of 913 Singaporean Citizens aged 18 and above.
- Quotas on age, gender and ethnicity were employed to ensure that the sample's composition reflects the overall population distribution, based on Singapore Department of Statistics population estimates.
- The precision of online surveys is measured using a credible interval. In this case, the results reported are accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points of the views and perspectives of all Singaporeans aged 18 and above (at 95% confidence interval). Credible intervals are wider among subsets of the population.

For further information or to set up interviews with opinion leaders cited in this article, please contact

**Tammy Ho**  
**Sr Manager, Marketing Communications**  
[tammy.ho@ipsos.com](mailto:tammy.ho@ipsos.com)  
hp: +65 97906340

## About Ipsos

Ipsos is the world's third largest market research company, present in 90 markets and employing more than 18,000 people.

Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees.

## PRESS RELEASE

We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg IPS:FP

Access more knowledge and insights at [www.ipsos.com.sg](http://www.ipsos.com.sg)

Follow Ipsos in Singapore for more insights at

- LinkedIn - <https://sg.linkedin.com/company/ipsos-singapore>
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ipsossg/>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/ipsos.sg>
- Twitter - [https://twitter.com/ipsos\\_sg](https://twitter.com/ipsos_sg)