

### ON RISING BUSINESS COSTS NOT BEING ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED

"Last year, we cut corporate taxes and we also improved the partial tax exemption scheme.

Those are permanent cuts, not one-off cuts. For small and medium-sized companies, the tax regime in Singapore is already more competitive than Hong Kong, let's say, or any other country."



### ON LARGER FIRMS MISSING OUT THIS TIME

"For bigger companies, our tax regime is quite competitive already. We'll have to look at it in future years to see what more we can do. Space and workers are the key constraints... On space, the last thing we should do is to intervene in the market and distort supply and demand in a way that benefits some businesses but makes it much harder for others. On workers, basically the foreign dependency ratios have been raised, in manufacturing, services, processed industries, construction... that's a process that will be reviewed from time to time. There are more workers available now."