

## COMRADE OF LABOUR

### Danapal Kumar

President

Singapore Tamil Teachers' Union (STTU)

*Nominated by the Singapore Tamil Teachers' Union.*

Danapal Kumar currently serves as the president of the Singapore Tamil Teachers' Union (STTU). Prior to this, he held the position of General Secretary of STTU. He has held key appointments within the union for the past nine years.

He constantly looks after the welfare of Tamil teachers and advocates for permanent employment terms for S Pass holders and better salary prospects for this group of employees. At the annual AVC meetings held in the Public Service Division, he consistently speaks up for lower-wage workers, emphasising that wage increases or good bonuses reflect the Government's appreciation of civil servants' efforts.

As a unionist, Brother Danapal ensures the welfare of the members. He maintains regular contact with teachers to understand their work issues. He initiates dialogues with Ministry of Education (MOE) HR officers and union advisors to seek long-term solutions to problems faced by Tamil teachers.

He mentors many new teachers to be resilient and take on workplace challenges, encouraging them to join the union and its activities. His contributions are pivotal in grooming future union leaders.

Brother Danapal has been key in coordinating many international Tamil conferences involving Tamil teachers to aid their professional development and ensure job security.

He has also signed memoranda of understanding with several community organisations such as SINDA and SICC and works closely with these organisations to establish effective partnerships and collaborations that benefit teachers. He attended the membership seminar held in Taipei last year and the pre-NTUC National Delegates' Conference in Bangkok.

Brother Danapal is an active community leader as well, serving in various committees and advisory panels such as Tamil Language Council, Tamil Language Learning and Promotion Committee and National Translation Committee in promoting Tamil language and protecting Tamil teachers. He has also coordinated many events and projects for teachers, all endorsed and supported by MOE.

Alongside key union leaders, he engages trainee teachers through face-to-face meetups at the NIE Campus, successfully recruiting many to be union members. He encourages fellow union members to step up and share their strengths with fellow teachers, providing platforms for them to shine.

Brother Danapal Kumar has been a reliable comrade whose commitment and enthusiasm have enabled STTU to serve its members well.