

COMRADE OF LABOUR

Chandra Mohan Velu

Executive Council Member

The Singapore Manual & Mercantile Workers' Union (SMMWU)

Nominated by The Singapore Manual & Mercantile Workers' Union.

Chandra Mohan Velu is pivotal in establishing a positive and trusting environment between union members and his company's management at EM Services Pte Ltd.

He ensures members' workplace grievances are discussed and settled amicably, that his company grants union officials time off on the first Friday of each month for meetings at the union headquarters, and that its members get a fair share of welfare benefits and wage increases when negotiating the Collective Agreement.

Brother Chandra's desire to help improve the lives and working conditions of his colleagues prompted him to represent his Business Unit as a Union Representative in EM Services. He started his journey in 1992 as a property officer and is now the assistant general manager of the Town Council.

He believes that tripartism is the backbone of industrial peace and harmony – a belief close to his heart and the sole reason why he remains the union Branch Chairman. He is an Executive Councillor of The Singapore Manual & Mercantile Workers' Union (SMMWU) and sits on the U Care & Hardship Committee. He is also an alternative member of the NTUC Care & Share Committee.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he was entrusted with the safety and welfare of his workforce, as most of the employees were frontline workers who attended to the needs of estate residents. Despite the strict, safe distancing restrictions imposed, estate inspections continued, and residents were served as usual without disruptions.

Brother Chandra actively encourages his members to participate in union events or activities, particularly the NTUC U Care Fund CSR Projects.

He was instrumental in signing a memorandum of understanding between the union and his company to form a Company Training Committee (CTC). Brother Chandra believes in introducing new initiatives and technology to serve housing estate residents better and help workers perform more effectively.