

COMRADE OF LABOUR

Sazali Safiie

Executive Committee Member
National Transport Workers' Union

Nominated by the National Transport Workers' Union

Behind his meek and demure persona, Sazali Safiie has over the years proven his mettle as being a firm and level-headed union leader who has the interest of workers in his heart.

During a collective agreement negotiation in 2022, he helped balance workers' concerns with the challenges faced by the company, SMRT. He facilitated a constructive negotiation with SMRT's management and successfully secured a salary adjustment for all rank-and-file employees.

As the chairperson of the union's welfare subcommittee, he oversees the administration of all NTUC and National Transport Workers' Union (NTWU) welfare and hardship schemes, including the NTUC Care Fund (Special Assistance) programme and NTWU Education Awards.

His leadership style is best described as hands-on and people-centred. He never fails to go the extra mile to assist with members facing hardship, delving into the background and circumstances of those affected. With this information, he advises members on the other type of assistance they may receive.

With his years of experience, Brother Sazali knows about the criteria and rationale behind the various schemes. He has provided valuable guidance to younger union leaders in the sub-committee.

As the branch secretary of SMRT Rail Maintenance, he worked closely with the management on multiple projects to improve the workers' productivity. This included workplace learnings which led to diploma and degree programmes, and the development of certifications to recognise long-service rail technical workers, eventually leading to chartership.

He often encourages the workers to attend training and take on additional job scope. He also ensures that workers are not overburdened, and that they will get a share from productivity improvements.