

## COMRADE OF LABOUR

### **Bernard Lean Chong Meng**

Executive Council Member

Singapore Port Workers Union (SPWU)

*Nominated by the Singapore Port Workers Union.*

Bernard Lean Chong Meng is an exemplary figure in the Labour Movement. He joined the Singapore Port Workers Union (SPWU) in 2002 and became a delegate in 2014 and an executive committee member in 2018.

As part of the Industrial Relations Committee (IRC), he has been instrumental in amplifying the voice of port workers while championing causes that affect them. He always provides feedback on various issues in the monthly IRC meetings, including wages and welfare.

Brother Bernard believes in the spirit of the Care and Share (CAS) programme. He currently chairs SPWU's CAS committee and will serve on the NTUC CAS Committee from 2019 to 2023.

The SPWU CAS Committee oversees various programmes, such as visiting hospitalised members and Happy Villa, a community home and the SPWU-adopted charity that provides residential care for elderly females with poor family support. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when the home declined all visits, Brother Bernard continued to keep in contact and sent them necessities.

Beyond visits, his commitment to the CAS Committee has helped support members at various levels, including their children. The SPWU Study Awards and Primary School Cash Grant are ways in which the CAS committee has ensured that every family member is cared for.

On the job front, Brother Bernard is a strong proponent of upgrading and upskilling, supporting the Labour Movement's ideal of protecting workers and not jobs.

He began his port career as a Container Equipment Specialist (Yard Crane) before becoming an Operations Supervisor in Yard Operations. Today, he works in a control room where he utilises technology to make container handling more efficient. He is willing to take on new challenges in his work and sets an example for fellow members who may be unsure about automation.