

ERC/PR/2017

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2017 BUDGET DEBATE

**MR THOMAS CHUA, PRESIDENT OF SCCC,
NOMINATED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
8 MARCH 2017**

MOT: Effective Government-Business Communication

Madam Speaker, Members of Parliament, good afternoon! During the execution of government policies, blind spots often occur. However, problems do eventually reach desired outcomes via effective communication between government agencies and trade associations.

Two years ago, during the Chamber's luncheon dialogue with representatives from the transport industry, the Singapore Motor Cycle Trade Association gave us the feedback that as a result of the system, the quota for the motorcycle COEs keeps being reduced. We realised that motorcycle buyers actually fall under two categories. One category of buyers use motorcycles as their means of livelihood. The other category of buyers use motorcycles for leisure activities. With a smaller quota, the COE would be driven up, and the impact would be acutely felt by those who depend on motorcycles for their livelihood. The Singapore Motor Cycle Trade Association provided this feedback to the Land Transport Authority, and the SCCC also helped to lobby by adding our views.

In this year's Budget, Minister Heng Swee Keat announced that the contribution of motorcycle COE quota to open category COE quota would cease, to address the problem of a decline in quota. The Land Transport Authority also announced that it would continue to seek feedback from the industry and the public, so that the COE system could meet the demands of the population at large more equitably.

This case study shows that the Land Transport Authority has responded promptly to industry feedback, and helped to solve their problems. The SCCC also engages in similar channels of communication with other government agencies, and moving ahead, will help even more trade associations to provide constructive industry-related views.