# Property Registration in Singapore

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# Land - Laying the foundation for Singapore's success

Land is a national issue, considered by different public agencies, and underpinned by a clear and robust framework



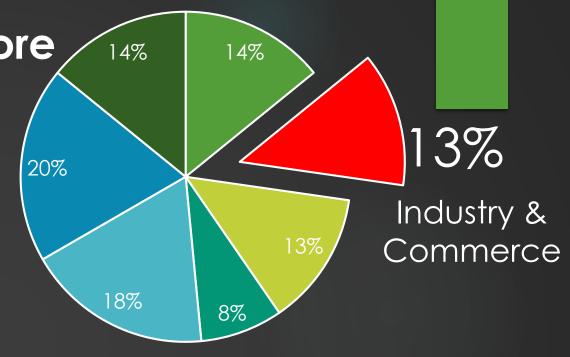
Optimising Land Use in Singapore

SLA's Vision – Limited Land, Unlimited Space

#### Total land area: 720 km<sup>2</sup>

- ■Residential 14%
- Parks, Nature Reserves, Reservoirs 13%
- ■Transport & Utilities 18%
- □Others 14%

- Industry & Commerce 13%
- Civic & Community Use 8%
- Defence 19%







# Key Elements of Successful Land Management

# Certainty

- Strong Legal System
- Enforceable Rights

# Convenience

- ► Efficient Land Registration Services
- Customer Excellence

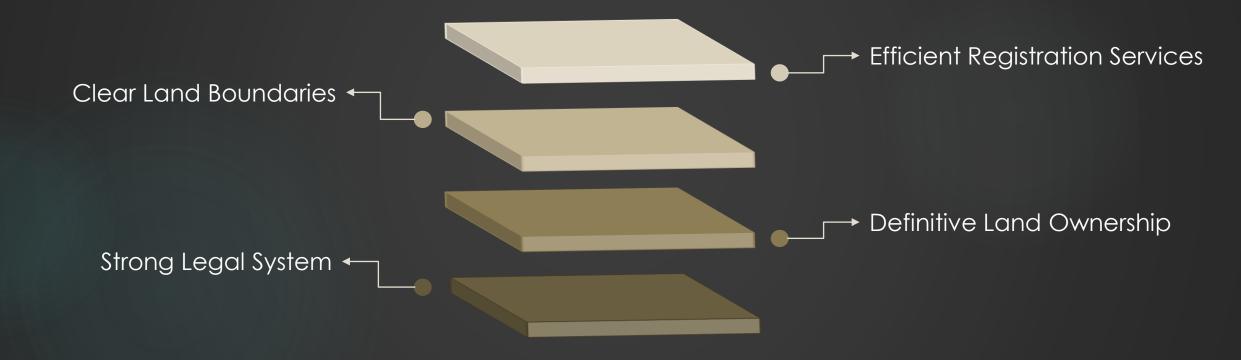
# Clarity

- Clear Land Boundaries
- Open and Transparent System

## Credible

- Definitive Land Ownership
- Trusted by the people, guaranteed by the State

# Foundation of Land Registration in Singapore



### SLA's Regulatory Function



National Land Registration Authority



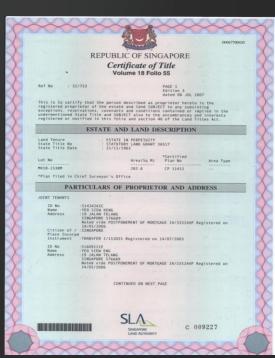
 Management and Maintenance of the National Land Survey and Positioning System

In addition, SLA is also the National Geospatial Agency in Singapore

### Land Registration In the Past

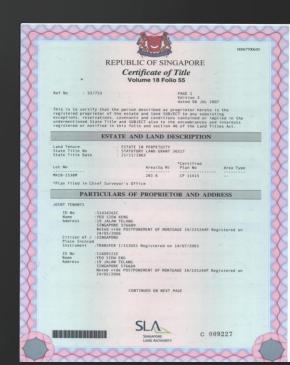
#### Deeds System

- ▶ In the past, property transactions in Singapore were registered under the old common law system: Registration of Deeds Act
- ▶ Legal interest in land passes when a deed is signed, sealed and delivered by the owner of a property. It was not compulsory for owners of land to register the deeds at the Registry of Deeds
- Such a system depended on the sanctity of the document executed between parties.



# Today's Land Ownership Structure in Singapore

- ► Today, Singapore adopts the Torrens system. Under this system, the State guarantees the title, through a process of registration
- Registration is compulsory and necessary to pass legal title and the transactions are recorded in single record called Certificate of Title (CT)
- Under the Assurance Fund established under the Land Titles Act, landowners unfairly deprived of their rightful interests through the operation of the statute can seek compensation
- ▶ Today, Singapore is almost fully registered for all land in Singapore
- Over time, SLA's registration system becomes the history of lands in Singapore



# But To Have a Proper System of Registration, Land Boundaries must be Clear and Accurate

- Boundaries that are legally defined and unambiguous every inch counts!
- Land titles issued and assured by the state have to be correlated to clear boundaries on the ground
- ▶ SLA creates and maintains a high integrity and reliable cadastral survey system to support title registration, development planning and land administration
- ▶ SLA also manages the survey reference system, which consists of physical points on the ground that the Registered Surveyor uses in the process of his field work



### Efficient Land Registration Services

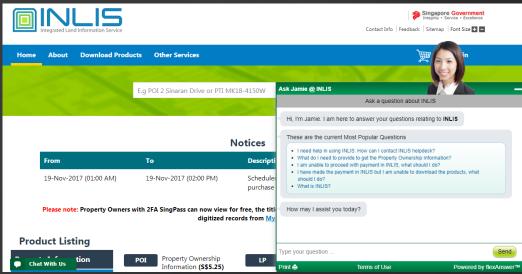
Online registration of property transactions affecting land

Private properties - bungalows, terrace houses, semi-detached houses, apartments, condominiums, commercial and industrial properties

▶ Public housing flats

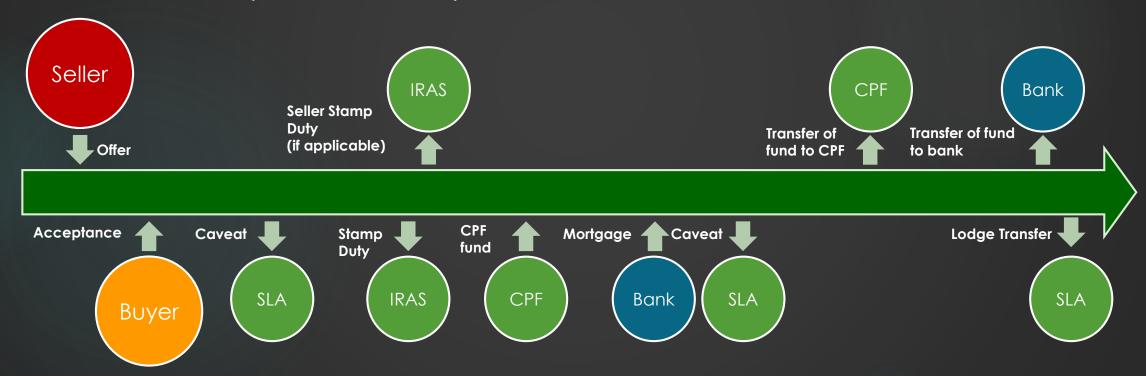
Issue of Titles in Electronic Form

Provision of a public record for all land transactions

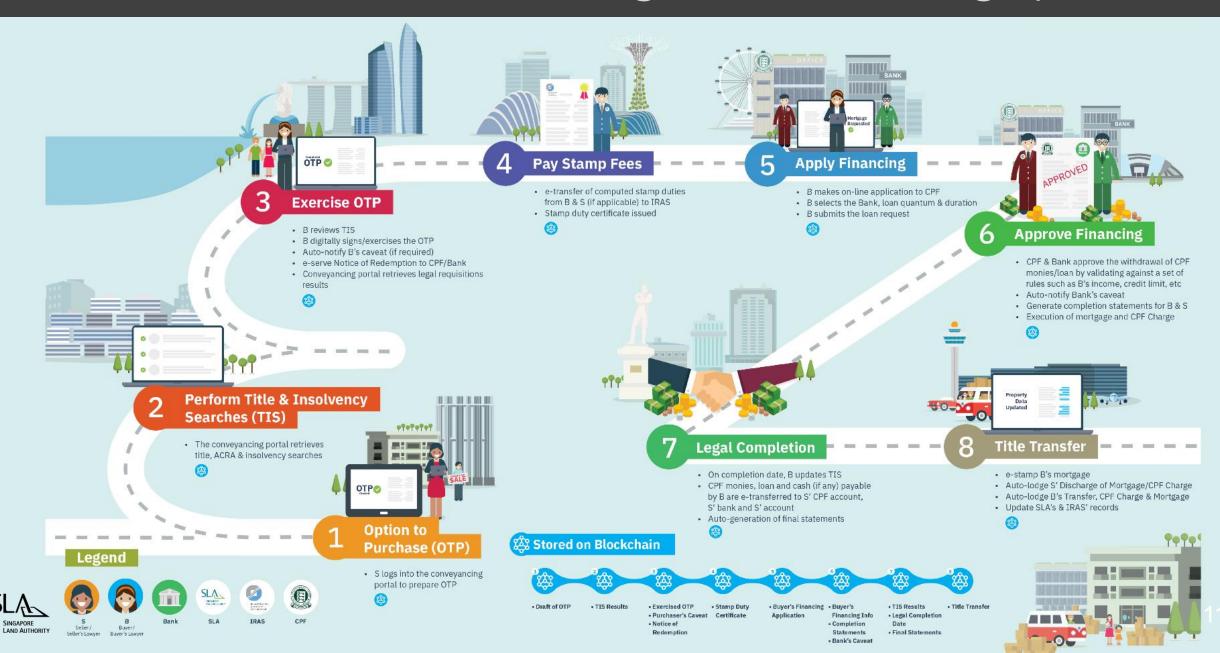


## Land Registration Process in Singapore

- Several weeks end to end as a result of due diligence checks by professionals
- But seamless experience for buyers and sellers



### What's Next for Land Registration in Singapore?



#### Trust - Basis of a Strong Land Registration System

Trust Between: 1) Parties 2) the People and the State



Efficient Registration Services

Clear Land Boundaries

Definitive Land Ownership

Strong Legal System

# Thank You

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