



Prime Minister
Singapore

7 February 2006

Dr Balaji Sadasivan
Senior Minister of State for Health
and Information, Communications and the Arts
Co-Chairman, Committee on Ageing Issues

Dr Mohamad Maliki Osman
Parliamentary Secretary for National Development
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Co-Chairman, Committee on Ageing Issues

Report on the Ageing Population, Five-Year Masterplan

1. Thank you for your letter of 3 Feb 2006 submitting the Report on the Ageing Population, Five-Year Masterplan.
2. Populations in many developed countries are ageing, and Singapore is no exception. We ought to prepare early for the challenges of an ageing people to ensure the well-being of our seniors and their families who provide the first line of support. At the same time, we must be ready to seize the economic opportunities that will emerge from this demographic shift. As your Committee has pointed out, growing old can be a positive experience both at the individual and societal levels.
3. The Government agrees with the thrusts of the Report in the four key areas of housing, accessibility, healthcare and eldercare services, and opportunities during old age. We should develop an elderly-friendly environment with infrastructure and programmes to help individuals adapt to ageing and prepare families to care for their older members. We have a window of a few years before the first batch of baby boomers become seniors. From now to 2012, much work has to be done. The relevant ministries will study the detailed

recommendations, to see how they can be implemented in a cost-effective and economically sustainable manner.

4. Finally, let me place on record the thanks of the Government to you and the members of the Committee for your contributions. The Government cannot deal with the multi-faceted challenges of an ageing population alone. I am glad that the CAI Report had been a collaborative effort involving the people, private and public sectors. Together, we can make Singapore a home for all of us to enjoy productive and fulfilling lives in our golden years.

Yours *sincerely*

Lee Hsien Loong