



*Prime Minister
Singapore*

24 July 2020

Mr Sam Tan Chin Siong

Dear Sam,

I am writing to thank you for your many contributions over the course of your political career.

You first became a Member of Parliament (MP) for Tanjong Pagar GRC in 2006. Five years later, in 2011, your ward, Radin Mas, was carved out as an SMC. You stood there and won convincingly. In the last election you contested in 2015, you won 77.3% of the vote – one of our party's strongest wins. It must bring you particular satisfaction that the PAP won 74% of the vote in Radin Mas at this year's General Election, again one of our strongest wins. Your successor has benefitted from the strong bonds you formed with your residents.

You have taken on a wide range of appointments and responsibilities in your time as an MP, including as Mayor of Central Singapore District and Deputy Party Whip. As chairman of REACH, you engaged all segments of Singaporeans, and made sure that the feedback received was followed-up on. You sought ways to make it easier to provide feedback, and deployed mobile feedback booths, known as Listening Points, to the heartlands, CBD and Institutes of Higher Learning. You also led by example, joining officers on the ground, engaging citizens and helming dialogues. REACH's transformation has not gone unnoticed among our international partners, and Singaporeans too consider REACH to be their first port of call if they have feedback to offer.

As Minister of State in the Ministry of Manpower, you advocated the interests of older workers and led initiatives to help them remain employable. At the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, you cultivated ties with the Chinese community, making full use of your prior experience as Executive Director of the Chinese Development Assistance Council and Chief Executive Officer of Business China. Since then, you have been a valuable bridge to the Chinese clans and associations, helping the government better understand the views and concerns of this community.

One of your passions as an office holder was to champion an inclusive Singapore that accommodates and respects persons with disabilities. At MCCY, you chaired an inter-agency Committee for Disability Sports to raise awareness of and participation in disability sports. When you moved to the Ministry of Social and Family Development in 2018, you helped drive the implementation of the third Enabling Master Plan (EMP3). You also co-chaired cross-sectoral workgroups to enhance access to lifelong learning opportunities and employment pathways for persons with disabilities, and promote independent living. In addition, you helped shape plans to consolidate disability support services under SG Enable as the single touchpoint for the disability sector.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, you made a major contribution advancing Singapore's interests at the Arctic Council. Even though Singapore is just an observer state, many on the Arctic circuit know that Singapore is committed and serious about rising sea levels and its implications. This is in no small part because of your assiduous cultivation of the governments and indigenous groups involved, and your active and constructive participation in Council discussions. I particularly recall one occasion in May 2017 when you flew to Alaska to represent Singapore at the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting, even though you had injured yourself badly in a fall at home.

My colleagues and I will miss your understated and unassuming manner – one that was always full of heart, and with a soft spot for the underdog.

Please accept my best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

Yours sincerely
Lee Hsien Loong

LEE HSIEN LOONG