

Lee Calls On Singaporeans To Be Attentive To Global Trends, Projects 5-6 Percent Growth
MalaysianMirror.com
August 9, 2011

SINGAPORE -- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong called on Singaporeans to remain attentive to global trends, and take a longer term view of their future, whilst addressing pressing concerns at home.

The Prime Minister said that while the interest of Singaporeans would be put first, the country would not "turn negative on foreigners."

Singapore has prospered because it has been open to the world and alive to economic competition and change.

"This is how we have attracted investments, created jobs for Singaporeans, and made ourselves a vibrant city.

"We cannot afford to close in on ourselves, or attribute all our problems to foreigners. We must stay connected to the world, and continue to welcome talent and ideas, wherever they may come from. Only then can we continue to thrive, and build a better Singapore for all," he said in his National Day Message here last night.

Touching on the economy, Lee said despite some risks on the horizon, a steady growth of 5-6 per cent had been projected for this year.

He said that amid recent global crises, the government had done its utmost to protect Singaporeans from the global crisis.

"We introduced the Jobs Credit to keep firms viable and save jobs. We formed the Economic Strategies Committee to identify long-term opportunities and map out a pathway for the future.

"This year, with the cost of living rising, we launched the Grow & Share package to help households cope. We continue to retrain workers to become more employable, and to support needy families through many assistance programmes," he said.

He said Singapore's strong reserves saved up over many years gave the city state the confidence and the means to move decisively with its Resilience Package.

"Our growth strategies of upgrading education and skills, and breaking into higher-value sectors have created good new jobs for Singaporeans. Compared to five years ago, most households have seen incomes rise," he said.

"We are building more HDB flats, to reduce waiting times and keep prices affordable. We are adding MRT lines and buses, to improve public transport service standards."

(Bernama)