

**The media asked me for my thoughts on retirement from Cabinet. This was what I said yesterday (19 May 2011):**

"I thank Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and former Prime Ministers Goh Chok Tong and Lee Kuan Yew for having given me the privilege and opportunity to make a contribution to Singapore, as Minister of State since February 1985 and later as Minister since January 1987. For some time now, I have informed Prime Minister Lee and Senior Minister Goh when he was Prime Minister that I could leave the Cabinet anytime when they wish to renew the team.

There is a generational change. We are into a new phase and a new team of younger ministers would be better able to connect with the ground. The Prime Minister's new Cabinet comprises a core of experienced ministers and younger office holders with strong potential. It is my sincere hope that from among them, the fourth generation of leaders will emerge.

I have no doubt that in the next few years, the PAP and the Government will review the policies and approach to take Singapore forward.

The 2011 General Election is over. Life must go on. We must not allow the deep emotions raised by a robustly contested election to polarise Singaporeans. There are great challenges ahead. The world economic situation is still uncertain. Singaporeans must unite and work together to overcome these challenges and uncertainties. In this globalised and fast changing world, a nation with strong resilience and unity of purpose will be better able to adapt and prevail over complex problems - to not only stay afloat but to thrive and succeed.

I wish Prime Minister Lee and his new Cabinet every success in this endeavour.

Without the duties of political office, I will be able to spend more time to engage my residents, and continue to do my best to serve them. I will also be able to spend more time with my family, especially my four young grandchildren."