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ACTIVE AGEING IN MALAYSIA

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE MALAYSIA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MALAYSIA

- Malaysia is an independent nation with a parliamentary constitutional monarchy.
- Total area about 330,252 square kilometres.
- Malaysia comprises of thirteen states and three federal territories that spreads across two major regions – Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia on Borneo Island.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MALAYSIA

- Malaysia is a multi-ethnic country. The principal ethnic groups are Malay, Chinese and Indian.
- Other significant groups are the indigenous people of Sabah and Sarawak, including Kadazan, Dusun, Bajau, Murut, Iban, Bidayuh and Melanau.

DEMOGRAPHIC

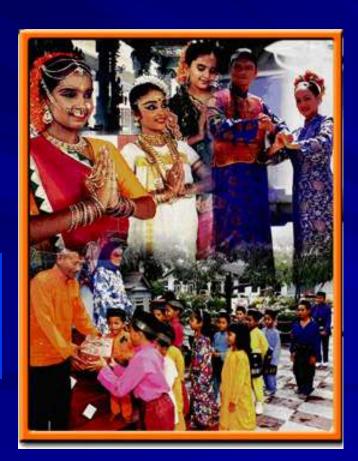
 The total population of Malaysia in the year 2000 was 23.49 million as compared to 29.34 million in the year 2012.

 This indicates an average annual population growth of 2.0 per cent for the period.

TOTAL POPULATION IN 2012: 29.34 MILLION

Female: 49.1%

LIFE Expectancy: 72.1%



Male: 50.9%

LIFE Expectancy: 77.3%

OLDER PERSONS

- In Malaysia, older persons are defined as those who are 60 years and above (This definition is in line with the World Assembly on Ageing in 1982 in Vienna.)
- The population of Malaysia is still relatively young compared to those in the developed countries, but changes in the age structure resulting from fertility decline and increased longevity have brought about the ageing of population.



SCENARIO

Population of Malaysia = 29.34 million (2012)

Population of older persons = 2.4 million (8.2%)

*Malaysia will become an aged nation in 2030 when older persons constitute 15% of the population (based on UN estimation).

- The National Policy for Older Persons and Plan Of Action for Older Persons were approved by the Government of Malaysia on January 5th 2011.
- The policy and plan of action were formulated based on the review made to the earlier National Policy for Older Persons (1995) and Plan of Action for the Older Persons (1998).

The review was carried out by the Government to relook into incorporating the developmental and reintegration of the older persons in the society, in order to instill older persons with a high sense of self-worth and dignity.



IMPROVEMENT MADE ON THE CURRENT POLICY

- Focuses on the preparation for the older age;
- Gives emphasis on the inter-generational solidarity; and
- Improved the exisiting implementation and monitoring mechanism by creating committees at national, state and district level.

• The National Policy for Older Persons and Plan Of Action for Older Persons were formulated taking into consideration of various international conferences that focus on ageing including principles outlined in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA).

- The policy were drafted based on the three priority areas outlined in MIPAA.
- 1. Older Persons and Development In the first objective of the National Policy for Older Persons is to develop a caring society and capacity-building of society to face the ageing phenomena. Mainstreaming ageing in the nation's developmental agenda is addressed in one of the strategies in the Plan of Action for Older Persons.

2. Advancing health and well-being into old age

The safety and well-being of the older persons is addresses through its third objective. Health care and services, prevention of diseases as well as improving the quality of life of the older persons are some of the strategies that are outlined in the Plan of Action for Older Persons.

3. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

– Among the strategies that are planned to achieve enabling and supportive environment for older persons are to strengthen the human governance and the enforcement of law pertaining to older persons; accessibility and capacity-building of the organizations; and intergenerational interdependence.

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Other related documents referred:

- Vienna International Plan of Action, 1982;
- Principles for Older Persons, 1991;
- International Conference on Population and Development, 1994;
- The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, 1995;
- Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, revised 1997;
- Macao Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific, 1999;
- Shanghai Implementation Strategy, 1999;
- Millennium Development Goals, 2000;
- Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), 2002;
- WHO Active Ageing Framework, 2002; dan
- United Nations Guide to the National Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2008.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE POLICY

The National Policy on Older Persons acknowledges the older persons as citizens with varied background and experiences, have the rights to enjoy a comfortable and respected life and contribute to the development of the nation.

POLICY STATEMENT

The National Policy on Older Persons is the government's commitment to create older persons who are independent, with dignity, high sense of self-worth and respected optimizing their self-potential through a healthy, positive, active, productive and supportive ageing to lead a wellbeing life.

OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY

To empower the individuals, families and community to provide friendly services to the older persons effectively and efficiently and to ensure enabling and supportive environment for the well-being of the older persons.

STRATEGIES OF THE NATIONAL POLICY OF OLDER PERSONS MALAYSIA

Promotion and Advocacy

Life-long Learning

Safety and Security

Governance and Shared Responsiblity

Inter-generational Solidarity

Research and Development

STRATEGY

- The National Advisory and Consultative Council for the Older Persons under the chairmanship of the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development is set up to monitor the implementation of the policy and the plan of action.
- The Council oversees the execution of programmes for the older persons in the country. Apart from this, the Council is also responsible to obtain the budget that is required to implement the programs outlined in the Plan Of Action for Older Persons.

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SEVEN SUB-COMMITTEES

NO.	SUB-COMMITTEES	MINISTRY/AGENCY	
1.	HEALTH	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	
2.	SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL	DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE	
3.	EDUCATION AND SPIRITUALITY	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION	
4.	HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT	MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
5.	ECONOMY	ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT	
6.	EMPLOYMENT	MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES	
7.	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION	

PLAN OF ACTION FOR OLDER PERSONS

- Implementation of the plan of action for older persons is inter-sectoral and multi-disciplinary that involves coordination among the ministries, agencies, nongovernmental organisations, private sectors and the community.
- o The implementation of the programmes involves short, medium and long term.
- The plan of action enable the National Advisory and Consultative Council for Older Persons to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of programmes carried out for the older persons.

National Health Policy for Older Persons

- Commitment to ensure older persons will achieve optimal health through integrated and comprehensive health and health related services. 7 strategies were identified, namely:
- 1. Health Promotion;
- 2. Provision of a Continuum of Comprehensive Health Care Services;
- 3. Human Resource Planning and Development;
- 4. Information System;
- 5. Research and Development;
- 6. Interagency and Intersectoral Collaboration; and
- 7. Legislation.

NATIONAL FAMILY POLICY

Malaysia through the National Family Policy (NFP), advocates the concept of 'Family Well-being' based on family values such as love, caring, honesty, justice and equity regardless of status, gender and age to impart positive values from generation to generation, thus the importance of family development in tandem with the objective of creating a caring society.

PROGRAMMES FOR OLDER PERSONS

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICE

- 1. Home Care According to the ASEAN Strategic Framework for Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015), approved by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development in November, 2010 in Brunei.
- The project supports the ASEAN Member Countries in implementing the model adopted from an existing Korean Model but to suit the socio-cultural and economic context.

HOME HELP SERVICES

- Home Help Services have been established throughout the country through smart partnership with NGOs to provide care for older persons who are living alone.
- Among the services provided: bringing the bedridden older persons to hospitals/clinics for health treatment and assisting the older persons to clean themselves in the aspect of personal hygiene.
- Currently, there are 451 NGO volunteers providing services to 655 older persons.

UNIT PENYAYANG (WE CARE SERVICES)

- WE CARE Services have been established by Majlis Pusat Kebajikan Semenanjung Malaysia (NGOs) and supervised by DSW.
- Transportation to bring older persons to hospitals/clinics for health treatment or other purposes is provided through this service.
- Medium for accessibility to older persons/person with disabilities.

ACTIVITY CENTRES

- The Government has also established 22 Activity Centres for older persons throughout the country to to organise activities and socialise with the community.
- Activities and programmes provided at the centres: indoor/outdoor games, health services and therapy, religious studies, skills training and volunteer services.
- These centres have benefited 19,904 older persons.
- There are 23 more Activity Centres will be developed by the government for this year.

HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

- There are 9 Homes for the poor older persons, financed by the Government (have benefited 1,662 Ops).
- The objective is to provide proper care and protection for the needy elderly, treatment and better quality of life.
- 196 homes run by NGOs and private sector (4,857 OPs) issued on the Care Centres Act 1993.

HOMES FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL

- The Government has also established 2 homes for the ELDERLY POOR and chronically ill.
- The objective of these homes is to provide a comfortable and tranquil surrounding, care, treatment and shelter for those who are not selfsufficient and those with chronic illnesses.
- These homes have benefited 222 occupants.

LIFE- LONG LEARNING

- Under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (RMK-9), older persons were encouraged to be active and productive so that they can continue to contribute to the family, society and country.
- Enculturation of lifelong learning is one of the seven (7) strategic directions of the Ministry of Higher Education to promote active citizenship and evenness in social status as well as fulfilling individual and manpower needs of the country.
- The first University of the Third Age U3A in Malaysia was set up in affiliation with the Institute of Gerontology, Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2008 to encourage learning for leisure among the elderly.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEMES - GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To increase the quality of life of target groups (ELDERLY POOR) for better living

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

CATEGORY	RATE	PURPOSE
Older Persons	USD100 per month	To assist the elderly poor to remain in their families/ communities

CRITERIA

- Age 60 years old and above;
- No income to support life; and
- •In need.



PRIORITY ISSUES FOR OLDER MALAYSIANS

"We must be fully aware that while the developed countries became rich before they became old, the developing countries will become old before they become rich."

- Gro Harlem Brundtland, WHO Director-General

PRIORITY ISSUES



Finance/Economy



Health



Emotion/Psychology



Family



Transportation

Expectation About International Collaboration

- Sharing data, information as well as best practices
 - Training to enhance skills
 - Exchange the resource person
 - Internship
 - Research focus on older person with multiple chronic illness than just one illness.

Thank You