

**Lee: Establish body to manage ageing population**

PETALING JAYA: The government should set up a council that specifically addresses issues affecting the elderly, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye (pic) said.

The Alliance for Safe Community chairman said the council that he has proposed is called the National Social Security Council (NSSC) and aims to address the ageing population in the country.

"It is timely to establish such a body to conduct a rapid needs assessment to launch an 'Action Plan for Successful Ageing'.

"The council could implement a number of policies including reviewing the mandatory retirement age, and if feasible, increase it from 60 to 65," he said in a statement yesterday.

Lee also suggested introducing incentives to employers to hire and retain senior citizens so the elderly would become productive members of society.

"I also propose we incentivise and encourage caregivers so more of them can offer their services to those in need. It is clear that early action yields the greatest benefits," he added.

Malaysia, he said, can also take a cue from Japan, which has extensive experience in managing its elderly population.

**According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia, Malaysia will reach ageing nation status by 2030, with an estimated 15% of Malaysians over 60 years of age.**

"There is much that non-governmental organisations and the community can do, too. They can help the elderly maintain a healthy lifestyle by providing facilities for exercises and non-competitive activities.

"The elderly will then be able to make friends who can add to their feeling of self-worth," Lee added.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2021/10/05/lee-establish-body-to-manage-ageing-population>