



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

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Mr Felipe Gonzalez Morales
Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants

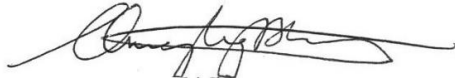
Dear Mr Gonzalez,

I enclose for your reading pleasure a statement delivered by my Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on International Migrants Day 2020. His message of gratitude and encouragement was also subtitled in the native languages of our migrant workers, such as Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Tamil and Hindi. I am also happy to inform you that Prime Minister Lee has publicly confirmed that our migrant worker population will have access to COVID-19 vaccines once they become available.

Migrant workers are, and continue to be, an integral part of Singapore's workforce and economic journey. Protecting the health, well-being and livelihoods of migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic has been a consistent priority for Singapore. Prime Minister Lee committed earlier this year that Singapore would care for our migrant workers just like we would care for Singaporeans. For example, any healthcare fees associated with locally transmitted COVID-19 cases are borne by the Government. The Government of Singapore had also put in place a suite of measures to control the transmission of COVID-19 among our migrant worker population living in dormitories, and we are pleased that these have yielded results and the situation is now stable.

As we move into a new year, Singapore remains committed to promoting and protecting the rights of our migrant worker population, including their health, safety and livelihoods. I send you my best wishes for 2021 and look forward to cooperating with you in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Umej Bhatia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

UMEJ BHATIA
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN LOONG'S MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY 2020, 18 DECEMBER 2020

Hello friends,

It's almost a year since we detected our first COVID-19 cases amongst migrant workers in Singapore. After a tremendous effort, we have now stabilised the situation. Migrant workers are healthy and safe from COVID-19. I know it has been a difficult period for all of you. Thank you for your trust, patience and support. We could not have done this without your cooperation and sacrifices.

We will continue to care for you, just as we care for Singaporeans. You are welcomed members of our society. If you fall ill, we will make sure you get medical care, stay in touch with your families, and can return to work as soon as possible.

We are gradually easing the rules in the dormitories and the wider community. Besides visiting Recreational Centres, you can now enjoy communal activities like cooking and sports. With some luck, if the number of cases stays very low, we can ease up further. Please stay vigilant, and cooperate with the government and with your employers to keep everyone safe.

On behalf of all Singaporeans, I thank you once again for all your contributions and support, and I wish you a very happy International Migrants Day!

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