

## Strike balance between economic and social growth

REFER to Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew's comments in the report, "To do well in next five years, Singapore must..." (*my paper*, Feb 19).

There is a **concerted**, collective effort to encourage Singaporean workers to retrain and upgrade their skills and capabilities.

This move is premised on the fact that economic challenges to our nation would only become stiffer in time to come, and that being content with the **status quo** would lead to ruin.

Employers therefore have a strong incentive to work with the National Trades Union Congress to raise workers' productivity levels and help them do their jobs better.

However, the average worker might see this effort as simply another of a slew of recommendations by the Government.

Some might wonder how effective these policies are and what they can do for **fledgling** firms and struggling employees.

Emphasis is also being placed on unique, up-and-coming industries.

However, does the business environment in Singapore provide fertile ground for **entrepreneurs** to strike out confidently on their own?

While economic progress is important and it is imperative for the country to forge ahead, the Government should not lose sight of other aspects of Singapore's growth, which are equally important.

There is a need to strike a balance between economic development and social growth.

Singapore was recently ranked 70th in International Living magazine's Quality of Life Index.

This is a sign that something needs to be done.

The fruits of the country's economic growth should be shared equitably among all Singaporeans.

Ways to improve Singapo-

reans' welfare should also be explored, so that the country can become a better place in which to live, work and play.

A country's economic growth can never be a **substitute** for improvements in its residents' everyday lives.

MR KWAN JIN YAO

### HELPDESK 我的字典

**Concerted:** 一致的 yí zhì de

**Status quo:** 现状 xiàn zhuàng

**Fledgling:** 初出茅庐 chū chū máo lú

**Entrepreneurs:** 企业家 qǐ yè jiā

**Substitute:** 代替者 dài tì zhě

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Please include your full name, address and a telephone contact number. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and length.

## MacRitchie facilities being improved

WE REFER to the letter, "MacRitchie Reservoir may be next Dempsey" (*my paper*, Feb 19).

The reservoirs, with their lush greenery and scenic expanses of water, are popular places for recreation.

To inspire people to better appreciate our water bodies and to cultivate a relationship with water, PUB is moving beyond the functional use of reservoirs and opening them up for leisure and communal-bonding activities.

While introducing enhancements to the reservoirs, continued efforts are made to retain the special character of each water body.

MacRitchie Reservoir is one of the four reservoirs bounding the nature reserves, and has become a popular spot for nature lovers and exercise enthusiasts.

This nature enclave has

turned into a recreational space for many busy Singaporeans who want to escape from the hustle and bustle of city life to enjoy some peace and tranquillity.

With this in mind, efforts have been made to preserve the serenity and natural beauty of the reservoir and nature reserve as improvements are being made.

The two-storey carpark and amenities centre are among the facilities provided under PUB's Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters Programme to enhance park users' experience. There is also a food kiosk at the Amenities Centre selling refreshments. It is being renovated and is expected to reopen next month.

Visitors can also look forward to a food-and-beverage outlet at the hilltop and landscaping enhancements to the playground under Phase 2 of the MacRitchie Redevelopment project.

Members of the public are welcome to contact PUB's 24-hour call centre on 1800-284-6600 to provide feedback.

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