



*Prime Minister
Singapore*

31 March 2021

Dr Nazirudin Nasir
Mufti of Singapore
Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura (Muis)
273 Braddell Road
Singapore Islamic Hub
Singapore 578702

Dear Mufti Nazirudin,

Thank you for your letter expressing Muis' support for the Government's deliberations on allowing nurses to wear the tudung.

2. I thank Muis and the asatizah fraternity for participating in the government's consultations on this issue in recent years. The government fully appreciates the growing socio-religious significance of the tudung to Muslim Singaporeans, and the desire of some Muslim nurses to wear the tudung with their uniform if they wish to do so. We are presently considering how this can be done.

3. Singapore is one of the few countries in the world where different races and faiths live peacefully and closely together. Our racial and religious harmony is based on treating everyone equally without prejudice or discrimination, and building a national identity shared by all communities, while allowing each community to practise its faith and way of life. We have done this through mutual accommodation, compromise, and trust building by all groups. Over time, we have reached a delicate balance that considers the interests of all communities.

4. But this balance is dynamic. As younger generations of Singaporeans grow up and attitudes change, new issues and pressures arise. These must be addressed taking into account Singapore's context. Any change we make must be carefully considered and gradual. Only thus will the changes be

understood and accepted by all communities, and the outcomes reinforce rather than weaken our racial and religious harmony.

5. I would like to express my gratitude to you and Muis for helping to build the precious racial and religious harmony that we have enjoyed for more than half a century. Muis has stepped up on many occasions to lead interfaith efforts and strengthen the bonds of trust between Muslims and other religious communities in Singapore. In recent months, Muis' outreach to the Christian and Jewish communities has been crucial in maintaining our social harmony in the face of terrorist threats. During COVID-19, Muis has contributed to our national efforts, rallying and providing timely guidance to the community to adjust their religious practices to pandemic conditions.

6. I look forward to working with Muis to strengthen social cohesion, and achieve progress for the Muslim community and all Singaporeans.

Yours sincerely

Lee Hsien Loong

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