



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

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**REMARKS BY MR AMRIN AMIN, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH
AT THE RE-LAUNCH OF UBERASSIST, 20 NOVEMBER 2017, 1.35PM**

- Good afternoon everyone. It gives me great pleasure to be part of the launch of UberASSIST in Singapore.
- Singapore's population will age rapidly in the next decade. By 2030, one in four Singaporeans will be aged 65 years and above. While population ageing brings about challenges, there are also opportunities.
- On the part of individuals, ageing need not be a concern. Rather, if we continue to keep active and healthy, we can live many more years of meaningful life, and continue to grow and develop in our silver years.
- Population ageing can also catalyse new economic opportunities, especially in the silver industry. In particular, we can leverage on technology and innovative solutions, to create new services to meet the needs of a growing silver population, and to disrupt and reinvent the delivery of aged care services.
- This collaboration with Uber is part of the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)'s efforts to partner the private sector in reinventing the delivery of transport services for seniors.
- As our population ages, there is an increase in the need for escort and transport services to help seniors with mobility issues to access healthcare and other services. In response to ground feedback that we need more, and more accessible escort and transport services for more seniors, AIC decided to partner Uber to outreach to its vast network of driver-partners, to be involved in helping our seniors get from place to place. Driver-partners are trained to better assist passengers with disability or mobility challenges onto the car, and I am pleased to announce that there are more than 500 of such driver-partners with vehicles that can accommodate wheelchairs and mobility devices.
- Earlier this year, AIC has also worked with the Red Cross Society to engage retired seniors to provide paid medical escort. These trained staff can help to accompany



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seniors with mobility challenges to attend their medical appointments, by calling for a taxi or hired car.

- Taken together, we now have over 500 vehicles on the roads that can support seniors and they can be paired flexibly with befrienders or staff trained in escorting seniors, to provide more timely and flexible support for seniors needing to travel for their medical appointments, as well as persons with disabilities (PWDs). This is a game changer in the delivery of transport services that can benefit both seniors and PWDs as well as their caregivers. UberASSIST will make transport more accessible for seniors and PWDs to remain active, and receive care in the community.
- Uber's collaboration with UberASSIST is an example of how we can all work together to promote a friendlier and more inclusive environment for our seniors and PWD. I am heartened that partners like Uber are stepping forward to work with us in making Singapore a Smart Nation for All Ages. We will need more of such partnerships as we work to address the needs of our ageing population.
- I would like to congratulate Uber on the launch of UberASSIST and I look forward to its success. Thank you.



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