



**MINISTRY OF MANPOWER**  
SINGAPORE

20 February 2018

SECOND MINISTER

Dear Chairman and Members of the Tripartite Workgroup,

Self-employed persons (SEPs) are a regular part of our resident workforce. Over the last 10 years, their share has been fairly stable at around 8-10%. However, with the emergence of digital platforms, individuals now find it easier to become and offer their services directly to buyers. It is therefore important that we enhance our understanding of the SEP landscape and where possible, address the concerns of individuals who prefer self-employment. The Tripartite Workgroup (TWG) on SEPs was convened by Manpower Minister Lim Swee Say for this purpose.

The TWG consulted widely in identifying the main challenges faced by SEPs. Drawing on survey data and extensive discussions with stakeholder groups, you noted that most SEPs expressed preference for self-employment over regular employment, and were not seeking the same level of protections as regular employees. From engagements with intermediaries and service buyers, you developed insights into their practical considerations and the potential impact of specific interventions. This had led the TWG to put forward a balanced and constructive set of recommendations.

I am pleased to accept the TWG's recommendations, which will help shape the Government's strategies to address concerns faced by SEPs. I intend to provide a fuller response during the Committee of Supply parliamentary debates next month. This will include an outline of measures to implement the recommendations and the expected timelines.

On behalf of the Government, I would like to put on record my appreciation to you, your Workgroup members, and all who have contributed to this important work.

Yours sincerely

**JOSEPHINE TEO**