

## Singapore Government's Response to Mr Lee Hsien Yang

Mr Lee Hsien Yang ("Mr LHY") has called for demolition of No 38 Oxley Road ("the Property") immediately, citing that this was Mr Lee Kuan Yew's ("Mr LKY") wish in his Will.

Mr LHY knows that what he says is inaccurate.

### Mr Lee Kuan Yew's views with regard to preserving the Property

Mr LKY wrote to Cabinet on 27 Dec 2011 and acknowledged that Cabinet members were of the view that the Property should not be demolished. He accepted that the Property may be preserved. He said in his letter that:

***"Cabinet members were unanimous that 38 Oxley Road should not be demolished. I have reflected on this and decided that if 38 Oxley Road is to be preserved, it needs to have its foundations reinforced and the whole building refurbished. It must then be let out for people to live in. An empty building will soon decline and decay."***

A copy of the letter is attached.

Thereafter, having accepted that the Property may be preserved, Mr LKY also submitted renovation and redevelopment plans for the Property, and obtained approval from URA. This was in March 2012. Mr LKY was, in submitting the plans, proceeding on the basis that the Property will be preserved.

Mr LKY's Will, while stating his preference for the Property to be demolished, also acknowledges that the Property may be preserved.

Mr LKY's views are quite clear. His preference was for the Property to be demolished. But he accepted that it need not be demolished, and he gave his views on how the Property ought to be preserved. All of this is set out in the Report of the Ministerial Committee on 38 Oxley Road ("Report"), published in April 2018.

### Mr Lee Hsien Yang misled his father and presented "an elaborate edifice of lies"

Mr LHY refers to Mr LKY's Will. But Mr LHY chooses not to mention that he and his wife, Mrs Lee Suet Fern ("Mrs LSF"), misled his father on the execution of the Will, and that both were found to have lied under oath.

The findings were made by the Court of Three Judges ("C3J") in Nov 2020, and a Disciplinary Tribunal ("DT") in Feb 2020. These findings were made after the Report was issued in 2018.

The DT and the C3J said that Mr LHY and Mrs LSF had presented **"an elaborate edifice of lies ... both on oath ... and through their public and other statements,** (which were referred to/relied upon during the Disciplinary Proceedings). The Affidavits were

contrived to present a false picture. Several of the lies were quite blatant.” The C3J also found that Mr LHY and Mrs LSF had lied under oath. **Mr LHY’s continued allegations must be seen in this light.**

The DT found, and the C3J agreed, that Mrs LSF “focused primarily on what her husband wanted done”, and “worked together with Mr LHY, with a singular purpose, of getting Mr Lee [Kuan Yew] to execute the Last Will quickly”. The C3J concluded that Mr LKY “**ended up signing a document which was in fact not that which he had indicated he wished to sign**”.

As a result, Mrs LSF was suspended from practice for 15 months for her misconduct.

### **What should be done with the Property**

There is a range of views among Singaporeans on what to do with the Property. Many Singaporeans would in fact prefer to put behind us questions about Mr LKY’s Will, and the Property, and move on.

**Mr LHY is however trying to create a false urgency by pushing for the immediate demolition of the Property. The Government on the other hand is trying to keep options open (including demolition or preservation of all or part of the Property) and give time for current and future generations of Singaporeans to decide.**

Instead of closing all options now, we should keep the options open and consider them carefully, in the fullness of time, taking into account Mr LKY’s wishes, the historical value of the site and what it can mean for current and future generations of Singaporeans.

25 October 2024

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