

To me, a safer future
encompasses the

Government



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To me, a safer future encompasses the following five aspects: psychological defense, social defense, economic defense, civil defense and military defense. Each and every one of us has a significant role to play in ensuring that the five aspects of defense come together to build a strong nation for all. Only when we come together to fulfill our collective duties can we combat any threat that attempts to breach our security.

Psychological defense refers to our resilience and unity in the face of a threat. Having a fighting spirit is a key factor that determines whether or not a person can overcome challenges in times of crisis. If a nation is resolved and determined to face the challenge as a whole, willing to stand up to defend what is theirs with pride, they are likely to have a safe future regardless of the challenge. Therefore, it is important to inculcate a feeling of citizenship in every citizen. One of the Singapore National Education messages states that "We must ourselves defend Singapore".

This applies not just to Singapore, but to every country. Every country's citizen must be prepared to stand up to defend his country in times of crises. It is also important that they have the strength and resilience to return to their regular routine as soon as possible after a crisis, as well as support others during these tough times. Social defense refers to a country's social stability such that citizens of diverse backgrounds appreciate each other's cultures and live together in harmony. It is therefore crucial for citizens to understand each other's cultural identity in terms of their heritage, religion, and customs etc. A lack of social defense would mean a lack of peace in society, leading to chaos. In order to strengthen our nation's social defense, we should be sensitive and respectful of all races, including those besides our

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own. Making the effort to learn more about other people's cultural identity gives us insight into their identity and values.

Expanding our social circles by making friendships with fellow citizens from other communities is of the essence. Social defense also requires us to keep an open mind and be accepting of new citizens. Instead of shunning them, we must show them greater consideration and give them time to understand our way of living. Economic Defense is about having a strong economy that can withstand and support the nation through economic challenges. It means that a nation must build a good economic foundation to ensure its economic stability.

Besides having good and sound economic policies by the government, citizens can also play their part. For example, citizens can cultivate a habit of saving money and to spend money wisely. With the significant changes to the economy resulting from the rapid rise of technology in the 21st century, one can keep up with the latest technology and stay relevant and employable, and help keep the country competitive economically. We can put economic defense into action by embracing life long learning and continual skills upgrading to adapt to the changing needs of the economy. Civil defense is when citizens know what to do in times of crisis. During a disaster, it is important to know what to do in order to help one's country.

Knowing when to pitch in and what to do can ultimately save not only his or her own life but save their families and their neighbours. Citizens can read up on what to do in an emergency and can participate actively in Civil Defense

exercises, gaining more knowledge and being prepared for any disaster.

Picking up life-saving skills such as first aid, CPR, AED, or fire-fighting.

As citizens, people can also be more alert and keep a lookout for suspicious activity. Last but not least is Military defense. Having a strong military is crucial to any country's safety and to counter external threats. Be it protecting their nation from being attacked or deterring foreign intervention, a good military will do whatever it takes to defend his or her country. To remain operationally ready, a country's military personnel has to keep fit, train hard and be emotionally and physically prepared of being attacked. Having the latest military technology and equipment will definitely boost a nation's strength. In conclusion, a country needs to have all the 5 defenses strong in order to be safe with every one of its citizens being well aware of it and be united.