

# Enthusiastic response to job fair for over-40s

More than 600 posts in F&B, retail, services and health care on offer

■ BY JANE NG

MR CHAN Kim Liang will turn 72 next Monday but that is not stopping him from looking for a job.

The father of four, who is hoping to land a position at the Marina Bay Sands integrated resort, was one of more than 800 job seekers who thronged a job fair yesterday in Marsiling.

Organised by North West Community Development Council and the Singapore Workforce Development Agency, the event targeted job seekers over 40 years old.

Said Mr Chan, a former heavy-vehicle driver, who is eyeing a doorman's post: "I'm 72, but I'm fit. I can open doors and do other jobs. I don't want handouts from the Government. I want to work for my own money."

More than 600 vacancies were available at the fair in the retail, food and beverage, services and health-care sectors, among others.

Dr Mohd Maliki Osman, chairman for the Sembawang GRC Successful Ageing Committee, said this is the first time employers have been brought in for a job fair aimed at seniors.

"We want to send a message that senior citizens can continue to be employed if they're physically active and able to contribute. Employers should see them as a potential workforce they can tap."

Meanwhile, he said residents were concerned about the weak economic forecast and wanted to be financially independent.

"If you look at the recent turmoil in the financial market, senior citizens were affected. The residents I meet tell me financial independence is important to them. They don't want to be dependent on their children," he said.

Mr Khaw Boon Wan, Minister for Health and an MP for Sembawang GRC, attended the event, which also saw elderly residents given subsidised medical check-ups and dental examinations.

It marked the launch of the Community Dental Care @ North West programme, which is the first time that dental care for the elderly is being brought into the community.

It aims to underline the importance of oral hygiene among the community's elderly population.

[janeng@sph.com.sg](mailto:janeng@sph.com.sg)

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## FENDING FOR THEMSELVES

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