No country for old and sick people

THE STAR SAYS

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By The Star Says . . . .

WE are getting old. The statistics show Malaysia's inevitable march towards a difficult milestone – that of an ageing nation.

An ageing society is defined as having a minimum 7% of its population aged 65 and older, while an aged nation has 14% or more in that age group.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's 2016 population data sheet shows that as of last year, Malaysians aged 60 and above comprise 9.5% of the population.

This is projected to increase to 14.4% in 13 years' time and nearly a quarter of the population (23.5%) by 2050. So, it is sooner rather than later that we will become an ageing or aged nation.

In fact, Malaysia's march towards this milestone has been an accelerated one. Most developed nations take almost a century to reach this mark.

France, for example, took 115 years to move from being an ageing society to an aged one.

For Malaysia, it should take us just 25 years.