

Good governance requires collective action, leadership: Chan Chun Sing

Whoever can better align to the people's objectives, act decisively and swiftly, manage consequences and adjust resolutely is the better model of governance, the Labour Chief and Minister in the Prime Minister's office says.

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SINGAPORE: A good government is one that can help Singaporeans better their lives and livelihoods and achieve a better future for Singapore, labour chief and Minister in the Prime Minister's office Chan Chun Sing said.

This requires collective action, responsibility and leadership, which can only be achieved through trust, respect and humility, he added.

Mr Chan made these comments at Singapore Perspectives 2016, an annual conference organised by the Institute of Policy Studies.

Themed "We" - after the first word in the National Pledge - this year's edition of the conference sought to gather views on rethinking what it means to be Singaporean, as the Republic strives towards SG100.

CONCERN IS WHETHER SINGAPORE, NOT PAP, WILL LAST: CHAN

Addressing an audience of around 800 people, Mr Chan discussed how Singapore could continue to practice good governance as its citizens become more socially diverse, educated and politically savvy.

He said that policies must lead to outcomes that better the lives of Singaporeans and their future generations, while processes should engage the collective wisdom, power and energies of the people for collective action.

Mr Chan also noted that policies had to adjust, and political parties had to evolve "in order to make sure the higher goal of sustaining the country is achieved".

A good system of governance is one that continuously brings forth even better people for the future - those with the right values and abilities, and who work for the country rather than themselves, he said.

Whoever can better align to the people's objectives, act decisively and swiftly, manage consequences and adjust resolutely is the better model of governance, the labour chief added.

"Our concern is not whether the People's Action Party will last forever; our concern is whether Singapore will last forever."

Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat also touched on the need to make choices that are best for Singapore and Singaporeans. "Look at what's happening in many systems around the world

where politics is really based on a contest of different groups and one group will start lobbying in one form or another, and in the end the political process does not allow it to take into account the interests of as many people as possible.

"Because it's really a function of how much money you can raise to lobby a particular cause. And I don't think that will be good for Singapore."

Mr Heng emphasised that even as society becomes more diverse, with a plurality of views, it is important the Government of the day does not become gridlocked, or mired in interest-based politics. And he stressed that Singapore must continue to have clean, effective government, even as its political institutions evolve.

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