

'More is better? Depends on the quality'

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PM Lee described the performance of opposition MPs in Parliament over the last term as "disappointing".

"When you go for election rallies, it's very easy to make fierce, rousing speeches," he said, adding that opposition candidates also make many promises.

"But when they come to Parliament, none of these issues are raised... because they know that in Parliament if they raise these issues, face to face in debate, they will be pinned down and the fallacies, insincerities and untruths will be exposed," he said.

"You voted for a tiger in a Chamber and you got a mouse in the House."

PM Lee added that they would then hope that people would not notice this before repeating the tactic in the run-up to the next election.

The WP painted a different scenario of its performance on its website.

In a review of its 2011 to 2015 Parliamentary performance released yesterday, it highlighted several changes its party members effected in Parliament — everything from healthcare to public housing.

So is WP ready to form the next Government?

While its party leadership has said no, East Coast GRC candidate Gerald Giam said on Saturday that taking over the Government remains a long-term aim, but WP wants to "focus on what our goals are for this election".

Singapore Management University (SMU) law don Eugene Tan said: "We can see it as the WP indicating that they are shifting gears and that they now have more confidence that they can move in a more concerted manner towards trying to develop Singapore's political system into a two-party one."

When asked if more opposition parties would give rise to better governance, PM Lee said: "More is better? Depends on the quality."

Dr Gillian Koh, senior research fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies, said: "The WP will have to convince voters that they can multi-task. They have to be the opposition voice in Parliament but also be effective in local governance, and certainly be above suspicion in how it manages those practicalities as that is the political system today."