

Strategies that Work

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Perhaps it's best to choose what works, rather than adopt a strident or softly-softly approach.

National University of Singapore sociologist Tan Ern Ser said: "The bottom line, in my view, is not whether it should be soft or hard, but what is effective."

That means doing proper, thorough research and having a strong public backing.

Groups should also be willing to compromise, understand each other's perspectives, and give and take, he said.

There's room for all.

Calling the thinking that people should belong to one organisation "an old paradigm", Nominated MP Faizah Jamal said: "Singapore is small enough for everyone to know (one another) and support each other when need be, as seen in the engagement with the Land Transport Authority over the Cross Island Line."

SUPPORT

For Aware's Ms Lim, it's important to support groups ranging from the hardcore to the mainstream, "so a range of voices can be heard and a middle voice can prevail".

Though the state of flux can be messy, it is okay.

Said Ms Braema Mathi: "We have to debate more to find the rhythm. It's like mahjong, you have to shuffle to see how it lands and (whether) it works."

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— NUS sociologist Tan Ern Ser on which strategies to adopt