

No need to be reflective over number of the irreligious

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TODAY, 15 September 2017

In the article “Lessons for S’pore on the rise and fall of empires” (Sept 13), former top civil servant Lim Siong Guan noted that the number of irreligious citizens has been increasing, despite us being the most religiously diverse nation.

He had cited the “weakening of religion” as one of the characteristics of the Age of Decadence, and added that such observations about empires are “by no means predictive”, but we can benefit “by being reflective over it”.

Singapore is a multiracial, multi-religious state whose steadfastness in safeguarding secularism has allowed all of us to enjoy freedom of religion. We are not a theocratic state. We have the freedom of conscience to hold any world view or philosophy.

There is therefore no need to be reflective over this. Religion is a personal affair. Our founding prime minister Lee Kuan Yew was irreligious.

Let us remain a secular and religiously harmonious country to be proud of, regardless of race, language or religion, with each individual granted the freedom of conscience.