

## Tan Kin Lian: I will continue to be voice of people

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Tan Kin Lian has promised to continue as the "the voice of the people" after a disappointing campaign for the presidency.

Tan, who conceded defeat barely three hours into the vote count on Saturday night, won 4.91 per cent of the votes.

He said he did not expect the low number of votes and was "disappointed" by the results.

The former NTUC Income chief threw in the towel after visiting three polling centres. For failing to earn at least 12.5 per cent of the votes, he loses his S\$48,000 deposit -- something he paid for out of his own pocket.

"I'm a statistician, so I know from this analysis that I will lose this elections," said the visibly disappointed Tan, who on top of his deposit, spent an estimated S\$60,000 to S\$70,000 on his election campaign, with the money coming mostly from donors.

Acknowledging those who voted for him and his supporters at a friend's house for a thank-you party, the 63-year-old said he plans to continue speaking out on issues that concern many Singaporeans, such as the cost of living.

He admitted that while his campaign had helped raise awareness of the President's role, he said that he had "not succeeded in raising and communicating important issues."

In his statement to the press, he said that the disappointing results could also be due to the nine days given for campaigning, which he thought was not long enough for people to know him.

Political analyst Gillian Koh, a senior research fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies, said one of the low points of Tan Kin Lian's campaign was when Tan Jee Say decided to enter the fray as it split the votes.

Koh also added that it wasn't that voters disliked Tan Kin Lian, but more that many could identify with the "more vociferous" Tan Jee Say and Tan Cheng Bock.

Earlier on, Tan Kin Lian himself admitted that Tan Jee Say running for the Presidency was a low point in his campaign. Tan Jee Say was invited to be part of his strategic team to formulate ideas for his Presidential campaign before he decided to run on his own.

As part of his post-mortem plans, Tan Kin Lian posted on his blog on Sunday morning to ask for feedback on how he could have done better for the election.

Regarding his future plans, he said that he will continue conveying the "ideals of the people to the government via other channels."

He pointed out that a website is in the works to constantly gather ideas and feedback from Singaporeans, and he would want to find a way to convey these thoughts to the government.

Tan Kin Lian also said that he would not mind helping out the new President if the latter sought his assistance.

When asked if he might be contesting in future elections, he said: "I am open to future contest."

His wife, Vivian Tan, said, "We have done our best and contributed to the country. I told him we've already won. I feel proud of him. Everything he's wanted to say and do, he's already done. We've made a contribution to the country."

She told *Yahoo! Singapore*: "Life goes back to normal after this."

His daughter, Tan Su Ling, said she was proud of her dad. "He had courage to stand up for what he believed in, and that's what matters. My father is a really strong person," she said.

Adding that contesting the elections was a "new experience" for her father, she said he "raised debate of what the president should or should not do."

Supporter Ivy Singh-Lim, who gave a speech during Tan's rally, said that it "took a lot of guts" for him to run in the election as he was not "as rich and famous as some of the other people."

She added: "I really take my hat off to him. He did a good job with the limitations that he had."

Among Tan's proposals during his election campaign was to have a President's Personal Council, giving more money to NS men and having a pension scheme for the elderly.

He even said that if elected, he might use the President's veto powers so that the reserves can be used to benefit larger groups of people.

Tan is known for standing up for those who lost their savings in the wake of the Lehman Brothers collapse in 2008.

Reactions to Tan Kin Lian's campaign have been mixed.

Some congratulated Tan Kin Lian for having contested the election and "having done his best" while others said they saw him merely as "another feedback unit."

Reader Edvin Tay wrote on *Yahoo! Singapore's Facebook wall* that he was "just a simple man trying to make his way in convoluted game of politics."