THE ELECTION ISSUE

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Building The Future.

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06  YP is 25
‘We’re here to serve’
Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong traces the roller-coaster ride Singapore took in the last five years. He also stresses the need for leadership renewal and a strong government to take Singapore forward, as well as the role of Party members, at the Young PAP’s 25th anniversary celebration.
* Edited version

09  Interview
An investment for the future
In an exclusive interview with Petir, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean discusses the importance of a balanced team in Parliament, how to weather the challenges ahead, the upcoming General Election and the role new media will play in it.
* Also in Malay, Chinese and Tamil

18  Manifesto
The PAP lists its six goals for the next five years. They include improving the lives of lower-income Singaporeans.
* Also in Malay, Chinese and Tamil

22  Report Card
Petir takes stock of developments over the years in six areas of governance.
Economy: Robust
Social Security: Sound
Environment & Infrastructure: Progressive
Home: Secure
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Government: Effective

37  Feature
On track online for GE campaign
Social media is changing the face of MP-resident communication in Singapore. Huang Huimin tells how the Party has been tapping these new ways of communicating and takes you through its “election mode” website.
YP is 25
At the Young PAP’s 25th anniversary celebration, seven new candidates spoke on ways to work towards a better future. Petir runs edited versions of six.

YP must open doors for young
The youth wing is urged to create a brighter future by making it possible for more young Singaporeans to come forward and serve the community. The PAP also unveils its manifesto and introduces the 24 new candidates for the upcoming General Election.

Youth and politics
Young Singaporeans must come forward to serve, “to light a candle”, urges Ms Tin Pei Ling. She also recounts her own experiences doing community work.

‘We all need a friend’
Dr Janil Puthucheary appeals for younger Singaporeans to use their enthusiasm and experience in ways that help the nation.

Follow the three rules of teamwork
1. Remember we are all part of a team.
2. Build a sincere relationship with those around us.
3. Serve people. Mr Zainal Sapari tells how these can make a difference.

All must aim for a common goal
Mr Chan Chun Sing looks at why most small states fall and how Singapore can avoid ending up in the dustbin of history.

Wooing Hougang
Mr Desmond Choo recounts his experience in the opposition ward and the initiatives he has launched for residents there.

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Mr Chan Chun Sing looks at why most small states fall and how Singapore can avoid ending up in the dustbin of history.
The YP was launched 25 years ago as the PAP Youth Wing. I was the first chairman. Since then, it has grown and matured.

It has been active in engaging young people, and successful in recruiting new members for the Party – 1,000 a year – renewing the Party, keeping the Party young and strong, and in step with times. Every election it has produced several new PAP candidates.

Five years ago, the YP celebrated its 20th anniversary, also in this room, also with a rally. Then, like today, we were also preparing for elections.

It has been a more tumultuous ride than expected since, and the importance of “moving together, staying ahead” was never so clearly demonstrated as when we ran into the global economic crisis in 2008. Our economy plunged by 10 per cent two Januarys ago, in 2009.

We applied emergency measures and we came through the storm. Last year, our economy grew 14.5 per cent, probably one of the highest growth rates in the world.

This year, the momentum is continuing. In the first quarter it’s 8.5 per cent growth. Jobs are plentiful, unemployment is low.

When you look back, there are many achievements to take pride in. We have new HDB flats like The Pinnacle at Duxton and Punggol 21+. These are world class, and more are coming up.

Our upgrading programmes are progressing well. The Lift Upgrading Programme will be completed by 2014. All Singaporeans have therefore been able to enjoy a better living environment.

Our education system has improved. We have 255 PRIME schools now, upgraded school buildings with new facilities, new equipment, new laboratories, new activities. We have new tertiary institutions, so there are more paths, more chances for our young people to seize and climb up.

But what we are most proud of are the ITE facilities, because there is no other outstanding institution like the ITE anywhere in the world. It’s a commitment to all our students that we will prepare you, give you every chance to rise.

The retiring MPs.
Never forget that we are servants of the people, not their masters.

With Marina Bay we’ve built something special. The whole skyline has been transformed.

Yes, we face challenges as a country, but we are dealing with them. On the cost of living, we’ve got the Grow and Share package – $3 billion helping every Singapore household to cope, especially lower- and middle-income households.

For foreign workers and immigration, we have calibrated our policy and made clear that Singaporeans come first, because our responsibility is to Singaporeans.

But the best way to further Singaporeans’ interests is to allow a controlled inflow of foreign workers, immigrants and talents; people who can help us to grow our economy, strengthen our society, become like us when their children grow up, and make Singapore bigger and stronger.

On property, we have done many things. Many HDB BTO flats are being built – 22,000 this year. We are committed to keeping housing affordable, and to enable every household to own its home.

As a result of all this, a vast majority of Singaporeans should have seen their lives improve over the last five years.

Household incomes have gone up in real terms. Life expectancy is longer, and the health of our people is better. Our children are doing better. Our ComCare programmes have helped many families. Every MP and adviser knows that with ComCare, he has some artillery in his pocket.

We’ve got Workfare reaching out to 400,000 low-income workers. Every year, they’re getting $440 million.

We can honestly report that the PAP has lived up to its responsibilities to the people. If people ask me, I’d say, we’ve passed the exam.

But there are dark clouds on the horizon, whether it is revolutions in the Middle East, the Japan tsunami and nuclear crisis, or the debt problems in Portugal, Ireland and Greece.

Thank you
All these are known unknowns, but there are also many unknown unknowns which we must prepare for. What can we do?

First of all, don’t take any chances. Maintain our reserves to deal with a storm when it comes. Have a capable government in charge. Be prepared to act decisively when the situation arises.

We have an ambitious vision for Singapore. Our manifesto spells out our vision and programmes for the next five years. These are comprehensive and aimed at achieving a better life for all Singaporeans. Hence, the slogan for our election campaign – “Securing our future together”.

Singaporeans can be confident the PAP will deliver on its promises. So we seek the support of the people to endorse our vision.

People brought in each successive election to make contributions 10, 15, 20 years later. This team can serve for another 10 years. But what happens after that? We need to renew and deepen this leadership now, to ensure that Singapore can continue to grow and prosper.

We have a good team of MPs too. With this General Election, 18 of them will be retiring. I’m grateful to them. Some requested me to let them go, others would’ve preferred to continue a while longer.

Unfortunately, the need for renewal and to build a strong team for the future is overriding. We’re not in this for ourselves but to take care of Singapore, and to make sure it’s in good hands.

That is how our system works.

I’d like to thank the MPs who are leaving and their activists for putting the needs of the nation above their personal preferences, and for their support for the new candidates.

In the place of the MPs who’re retiring, we’re bringing in a new slate. This renewal is critical and urgent, not just to keep the PAP but also to keep Singapore vibrant and successful.

They will have to form the future leadership team for Singapore. They need to be ready by around 2020. They have to master responsibilities in ministries, learn how Singapore works, win voters’ respect, confidence and trust.

Our team has made an exceptional effort to gather these 24 new candidates. At least five have the potential to be ministers, and I’d say that half, over time, have the potential to become more than backbenchers. So it’s not an ordinary slate.

But I’d like to remind all party members that we’re here to serve Singaporeans. Never forget that we are servants of the people, not their masters. Always maintain a sense of humility and service. Never lord over the people we are serving.

Be as strict with ourselves as we are with others, because that is the way for us to win respect and support.

Be as strict with ourselves as we are with others, because that is the way for us to win respect and support, and for the PAP to remain the people’s choice to govern Singapore.

I ask Singaporeans to vote for the new leadership team and work with them to keep this miracle going, to hold our own in the world as a shining little red dot.

What will the world be like in five years’ time? Nobody can tell.

In the last 10 years alone we’ve had the 9/11 terrorist attack, SARS and the global economic crisis. When they came, we were ready; we have come through safely, and we’ve prospered and strengthened.

We must do the same, whatever new challenges befall us.

We will always need to be an exceptional country, more agile, more united, more resilient, offering brighter opportunities to our people, and our children. Therefore, let us win the mandate of voters again, and let us secure our future together.'
An investment for the future

DPM Teo Chee Hean talks to Petir about the need for renewal in Parliament, the challenges facing Singapore as well as why old ways of connecting and the direct human touch will trump new media in the upcoming GE

By Susan Tsang

Expect rousing rallies, emotional speeches, gatherings of thousands…. Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, however, urges voters to look beyond the hoopla.

“The General Election is not a rock concert, where you spend a couple of hours and get your adrenaline up, but which has no effect on your future”, he cautions. “A GE is really like making an investment decision about your future. You have to spend some time to think soberly and seriously about who you can trust with your future.”

He and his colleagues have gathered candidates with strong fundamentals and the potential to take care of Singaporeans’ interests, and help steer the country in the years ahead.

“At every GE, we turn over a quarter to a third of our MPs to bring in new ideas. We want to go into the new Parliament with experienced MPs and new energy to complement them,” he explains.

“In this GE, having new MPs means an opportunity to bring in people who will form the core of the fourth generation of leaders. The PAP’s process of renewal is ongoing.”

However, retiring incumbents is “a painful process” – every PAP MP has invested time, energy and effort in his constituency. But renewal is necessary, “because only then can the Party remain fresh and relevant, and change with the times.”

“I would like to express my appreciation to the MPs who are retiring, for all the work they’ve put in, for their willingness
“Today, as other countries are still struggling with the crisis, we are looking beyond it and moving full steam ahead. We need a united people, and a decisive and strong government, in order to be able to do that.”

to continue to serve if need be, for being prepared to step down to secure the future, and for helping the new candidates settle in quickly.”

Balance

Discussing the new candidates, Mr Teo emphasises the importance of creating a refreshed, but balanced team.

“The core principles and values remain constant, but with the new Parliament, we hope to see renewed vigour, and ideas that reflect fully all sectors of our population.

“We have people with experience in the unions, who have worked with workers; some from the Civil Service, who have experience in policy making; others who are from the Armed Forces, with experience in security issues and who have worked with youths in National Service; and educationists, who understand people well and the need to upgrade people for the future.”

In addition, the PAP is also fielding candidates from the private sector, who know the importance of maintaining a competitive economy and who understand the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Beyond their varied backgrounds, they were chosen for their commitment, ability and empathy – that ability to connect with the ordinary man and identify with the issues he faces.

“This helps give us, overall, a balanced team,” says Mr Teo, adding that this applies not just to the new faces, but to the Party’s 87 candidates, whom he described as “the salt of the earth”.

On average, the new candidates will be younger than the incumbent MPs who are standing again, in effect, helping the Party keep in touch with the younger electorate and the new world.

As they join in debates, policy formation and the decision-making process, “we have extra antennae, and new ideas, which we combine with experience. This will give us a good team both in Parliament and in the Cabinet, to take us into the future”.

Challenges

One thing seems certain – despite Singapore’s strong economic growth in 2010, the future will not be plain sailing.

“Uncertainty and shocks are going to be more commonplace,” predicts the minister. He adds: “And these will be transmitted rapidly around the world, which is much more interconnected and integrated. Our economy is closely integrated with other economies.”

It is the same in the financial services sector, where fortunes can be transferred at the click of a button, he notes. On top of that, more air travel means epidemics and diseases also spread rapidly. There is also human beings’ impact on nature, which can result in global warming and transboundary pollution.

“So we need a country and a people that are resilient in the face of crises and shocks, and united in their response. They need to rise to the occasion and overcome these crises, and look beyond the immediate to find opportunities in adversity.”

He cites Singapore’s setting up of the Economic Strategies Committee during the 2009 financial crisis to plan beyond that crisis.

“Today, as other countries are still struggling with the crisis, we are looking beyond it and moving full steam ahead. We need a united people, and a decisive and strong government, in order to be able to do that.”

The GE

But first, there is the General Election to fight. Mr Teo foresees that this will be more hotly contested, with most, if not all of the constituencies being challenged.

“This is important. It allows Singapo-
“In this GE, having new MPs means an opportunity to bring in people who will form the core of the fourth generation of leaders. The PAP’s process of renewal is ongoing.”

means to cast their vote, to exercise their choice, and make a decision for the future. This is something which we welcome.”

Whatever the results of the GE, the increase in the number of opposition MPs – elected and/or NCMPs – to at least nine means that there will definitely be more opposition voices in Parliament than there are now.

The Party, he adds, values a plurality of viewpoints. “We want to make sure no views are suppressed, and that we have a useful debate at every Parliament session.”

New Media
He also acknowledges the electronic media as a new space where all candidates can profile themselves and disseminate their views quickly and easily.

However, Mr Teo, who has a Facebook page with more than 4,000 friends, thinks it cannot replace the importance of human contact. “People want to look you in the eye and size you up, and decide whether they can trust you to work on their behalf or not.”

While the PAP is geared up for the upcoming fight, the minister emphasises not just preparation, but the right attitude as well.

He has one message for party activists: “As we approach this GE, when we go out campaigning, we must – as always – be sincere, humble and approachable. This is what we should be before, during and after the election, whatever the outcome.”
DPM Teo Chee Hean berkata kepada Petir tentang perlunya pembaharuan di Parlimen, cabaran yang akan dihadapi oleh Singapura dan mengapa cara lama dalam menjalin hubungan langsung sesama manusia akan dapat mengatasi pendekatan media baru di dalam pilihan raya umum yang akan datang.

Jangkakan suatu rapat umum yang bersamaan, ucapan-ucapan yang berapi-api, perhimpunan beribu-ribu orang... Timbalan Perdana Menteri Teo Chee Hean, bagaimanapun, menggesa pengundi agar berpandangan jauh, bukan sekadar melihat pada keadaan ‘ribut’ yang hanya melanda buat sementara waktu.

“Pilihan Raya Umum bukanlah suatu konser ‘rock’; di mana anda luangkan masa sejam-dua dan kemudian rasa bersemangat, tetapi tiada kesannya ke atas masa depan anda” beliau ingatkan. “Pilihan Raya Umum yang sebenarnya seakan keadaan di mana anda membuat keputusan untuk membuat pelaburan bagi masa depan. Anda perlu meluangkan masa dan menimbangkan secara serius tentang siapa yang boleh anda percayai demi masa depan anda.”


“Pada pilihan raya kali ini, dengan adanya AP-AP yang baru ini telah memberi peluang kepada kemasukan orang-orang yang akan membentuk barisan kepimpinan utama bagi generasi yang keempat. Proses pembaharuan PAP adalah berterusan.”

Bagaimanapun, mengundurkan wakil rakyat yang sedang berkhidmat adalah “suatu proses yang sukar” – kesemua AP-AP kita telah melaburkan masa, tenaga dan berusaha dengan gigih di kawasan undi mereka. Tetapi ia adalah satu keperluan, “kerana dengan cara itul sajalah Parti boleh terus kekal segar dan relevan, serta beru-
副自理张志贤与《行动报》

“Prinsip dan nilai utama sememangnya
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Dengan kepelbagaian latar belakang yang berbeza, mereka ini telah dipilih kerana menunjukkan komitmen, kepuasaan dan kemampuan untuk mendengar dan memahami – serta adanya kebolehan untuk mendampingi rakyat biasa sambil mengenal pasti isu-isu yang dihadapi oleh mereka.

“Kesemua ini telah dapat membentuk satu pasukan yang seimbang secara keseluruh, kata Encik Teo, sambil menambah bahawa apa yang dilakukan mereka bukan hanya tertumpu kepada muka-muka baru saja, tetapi juga pada kesemua 87 calon Parti itu.

Cabaran

Satu pertanya yang kelihatan pasti – meskipun Singapura menikmati pertumbuhan ekonomi yang baik pada 2010, masa depan kita masih belum jelas lagi terjamin.
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“至于那些即将卸任的议员，对他们所付出的努力、愿意在有需要时继续为民服务、为保障将来而做好退位的准备，同时协助新候选人迅速适应新环境，我在此对他们表达谢意。”

挑战
有一点是肯定的，即新加坡虽然在2010年取得强劲的经济增长，但未来的路并非一帆风顺。

张志贤预计：“不确定性与突发因素将会更常见，而它们将迅速传遍全世界，因为这个世界联系已更紧密，变得更一体化。我们的经济与其他经济体也是紧密相连的。”

“因此，我们需要一个在面对危机和冲击时能够迅速回弹，团结一致的国家和人民。他们必须能够应付并克服这些危机，放眼未来，在逆境中寻找机会。”

大选
当然，如今眼前首先要打赢这场选战，张志贤预料来届大选的竞争将更为激烈，多数选区，甚至所有选区都将受到反对党的挑战。

不论选举结果如何，反对党议员人数（当选议员或非选区议员）都将增至九人，这意味着国会里肯定会出现比现在更多的反对的声音。

他补充说，行动党向来重视多元化的观点。

新媒体
他也坦承，媒体已成为一个新的空间，让所有候选人利用这个平台轻易和快速地介绍自己，发表和传播自己的意见。

张志贤本人在社交媒体上拥有超过4000名网友，他认为，新媒体始终无法取代人与人之间直接接触。他说：“人们要直视你，进而作出判断，决定自己是否可以信任你作为他们的代议士，为自己服务。”

就在行动党为选战做准备，蓄势待发的当儿，部长强调除了做足准备，正确的心态也很重要。

他对党内的活跃分子有这么一句话：“面对这次大选，当我们展开竞选时，我们必须一如既往，保持真诚、谦虚和平易近人的态度。不论是选前、竞选期间，或是选举结束后，也不论选举结果如何，这都是我们应该有的态度。”


“Jadi kita memerlukan sebuah negara dengan rakyatnya yang berdaya tahan tinggi dalam menghadapi krisis-krisis dan kejutan-kejutan, serta bersatu di dalam memberikan respons mereka. Mereka perlu bangkit untuk menangani cabaran-cabarannya ini, dan dapat mengatasi krisis-krisis ini serta boleh memandang jauh bagi mencari peluang-peluang yang timbul menyusul kesulitan yang melanda.”

Pilihan Raya Umum
Tetapi terlebih dahulu, perlunya menghadapi pertarungan Pilihan Raya Umum.

Encik Teo menjangkakan pertandingan kali ini lebih sengit, dengan hampir kesemua, jika tidak keseluruhan kawasan undi akan dicabar oleh pihak pembangkan.

Apa jua keputusan pilihan raya umum nanti, peningkatan jumlah AP-AP pembangkang – dipilih atau merupakan AP Tanpa Kawasan Undi (NCMP), sekurang-kurangnya sembilan akan bermakna, lebih banyak lagi suara pembangkang di Parlimen berbanding yang ada sekarang.

Parti katanya, menghargai kepelbagaian pandangan.

Media Baru
Beliau juga akur bahawa media elektronik adalah wadah baru di mana kesemua calon boleh mengetengahkan diri mereka serta mengongsi pandangan mereka dengan pantas dan mudah.

Walau bagaimanapun, Encik Teo, yang mempunyai lelam Facebook dengan lebih 4,000 rakan maya, berasakan bahawa ia tidak boleh menggantikan kemesraan menerusi pertemuan secara langsung. “Orang ingin melihat anda secara dekat dan mengukur diri anda, dan memutuskan sama ada mereka boleh berasa yakin yang anda boleh melakukan tugas dengan baik bagi pihak mereka atau pun tidak.”

Dengan PAP bersedia hadapi tantangan yang bakal tiba, Encik Teo memberi penekanan bukan sahaja pada persiapan, tetapi juga sikap.

Beliau punya satu pesanan untuk para aktif parti: Sedang kita menghampiri Pilihan Raya Umum, bila kita keluar berkempen, kita mesti – seperti biasa – bersikap ikhlas, rendah diri dan menerima. Inilah sikap yang harus ada pada diri kita, sebelum, semasa dan selepas pilihan raya, walau apapun kesudahannya.”
யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் விளம்பம் இருந்து, நாராயணாருக்கு பஞ்சாவில் அனைத்தும் பார்வை, திறன்படிப்பு கிரிக்கெட்டின் கோர்த்தல் பார்வையும், நாராயணாத் பார்வையும் நடத்திய பூர்வத்தின் புதிய ஆரம்பகட்டத்தில் நிறுத்தப்பட்டது. திண்மவாக மூக்காக நிற்கும் பார்வையளவில் படையும் அறிக்கைகள் தேர்ந்தெடுக்க வரும் பிள்ளை குறிப்பிட்டன.
பாசய்த்தலுக்கு பயந்து வீழ்க்கையை பெருமையுடன், பார்வையுடன், அச்சு விளக்கத்தில் மாற்றத்தில் காட்டிய வருடக் கால்வரியாக வரும் என்று போன்றில்லை. தொடர்பு வருகிறது நாள் என்றும், பெயர் வேளாண்மை விளக்கத்தில் காட்டிய வருடக் கால்வரியாக வரும் என்று போன்றில்லை.

ஆராய்ச்சி விளக்கத் துளையிட்டு பல்கள் வருடக் கால்வரியாக வரும் என்று போன்றில்லை. ஆராய்ச்சி விளக்கத் துளையிட்டு பல்கள் வருடக் கால்வரியாக வரும் என்று போன்றில்லை. ஆராய்ச்சி விளக்கத் துளையிட்டு பல்கள் வருடக் கால்வரியாக வரும் என்று போன்றில்லை. 

இந்தக் குறிப்பிட்டு பல்வேறு விளக்கத்தில் காட்டிய வருடக் கால்வரியாக வரும் என்று போன்றில்லை. ஆராய்ச்சி விளக்கத் துளையிட்டு பல்கள் வருடக் கால்வரியாக வரும் என்று போன்றில்லை. 

மற்றும் இந்தக் குறிப்பிட்டு பல்வேறு விளக்கத்தில் காட்டிய வருடக் கால்வரியாக வரும் என்று போன்றில்லை. 

“என்னுடையது காலம் ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில், என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில், என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில். என்னுடையது ரையுக்கின்ற தொல்கின்ற நிலையில்.