

'Collective vision' for S'pore needed



MP Seah Kian Peng (left) said collective action will be more difficult to achieve in the future while Mr Sitoh Yih Pin said the Government has taken steps to review and refine its policies.

By MARYAM MOKHTAR

WHILE Singaporeans might have different ideas about what is best for the country, they should not lose sight of the need for a “collective vision,” said MP Seah Kian Peng (Marine Parade GRC) in Parliament yesterday.

Singapore’s progress over the years, he said, has largely been a result of collective action, a “common Singapore dream” that has shaped policies in housing and transport, among others.

But he stressed that this collective action will be “very much more difficult” to achieve in the future.

“We all want what is good for Singapore but the trouble is, we don’t all think ‘good’ is just one thing,” he said.

So even as Singaporeans make suggestions for the betterment of the country, they should be “undertaking this exercise in good faith that we work for the collective good, and not personal gain”, he added.

Political leaders also bear an “additional duty” to not just live an ethical life, but also shape the larger morality and “steer a course that stays true to the values of Singaporeans”.

He added: “Collective action can only be possible when we see each other as fellow Singaporeans working for the larger good, not vote-grubbing politicians seeking popular advantage.”

In his speech, Mr Seah also lobbied for the scrapping of the Primary School Leaving Examination, an exam that has “passed its time”.

“Why do we insist on a narrow and insular measure of educational abilities and potential for 12-year-olds when the demands and entry requirements for tertiary education already make such tests obsolete?” he asked.

Also commenting on the future of politics in Singapore yesterday was MP Sitoh Yih Pin (Potong Pasir), who said the Government has taken steps to review and refine its policies to keep them relevant.

He pointed to the Pioneer Generation Package and the Committee to Strengthen National Service as examples of “fundamental changes” for the country’s future.

He said: “If there is one thing we can learn from all this, it is the Government and PAP MPs are not only ready for change, we have embraced change.”

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