

The Straits Times

ASIA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Singapore

SM to voters: Decide who can best lead S'pore

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429 words

24 April 2006

[Straits Times](#)

English

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Quality of leadership key to sustaining growth and eradicating poverty, he says

FRESH from a high-level meeting in Washington which probed what made a country succeed, Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong yesterday summed up the critical factor as being one of leadership.

Voters, he said, must ask themselves who can best sustain Singapore's economic growth and prosperity before they head to the polls on May 6.

They should vote with their future in mind by deciding who can best lead Singapore for the next 10 to 15 years, he said.

'This election is, therefore, very critical. We are going to elect somebody that is going to sustain economic growth for Singapore. It's about your future because your future depends on who will be in charge of Singapore,' he added.

Mr Goh was speaking a day after returning from Washington, where he attended a high-powered Commission on Growth and Development meeting.

The conclusion of the commission, which includes two Nobel economics prize-winners, was that political leadership is still the single most important factor in a country's success.

Without good leadership, all the natural resources and physical infrastructure of a country may not count for much.

'It's the quality of leadership that is key to sustaining economic growth and eradicating poverty. It's key to sustaining prosperity,' SM Goh said at a family carnival at Mountbatten ward in Marine Parade GRC.

Mr Goh told voters not to be taken in by all the rhetoric that would be flying about during the election campaign. Instead, they should stay focused on who could best lead the country.

He told his Marine Parade constituents that creating economic growth might be compared with cooking a good meal. Anyone can go to a cooking school and buy the best ingredients and cooking equipment.

'But at the end of the day, can you cook a good meal? In other words, can you generate economic growth for the country? As in cooking, it's that extra touch you have.'

Likewise, in creating economic growth, it is the Prime Minister and his team that will be the most important factor. They must have the political will to get things done, as well as the right mindset, ideas and policies.

In the upcoming elections, Singaporeans are electing more than just a master chef, he added. 'We are electing a Prime Minister and his team to see Singapore through for the next 10 to 15 years.'

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