SINGAPORE: More than a million people tuned in to MediaCorp channels to watch "Why My Vote Matters - A Dialogue with the Minister Mentor".

It was a candid discussion that threw up a whole range of reactions.

Some Singaporeans felt the participants were brave, while others found them disrespectful.

The participants are telling their side of the story on the Channel NewsAsia programme "That Dialogue - Was I Rude Or...?", to be telecast on Thursday.

Asking questions that most Singaporeans would rather keep quiet about -- that was how some of the participants saw their role in the dialogue.

Many were unapologetic about asking tough questions.

Said Yam Yu Jian, an undergraduate at Singapore Management University, "True enough, some of us didn't phrase our questions in the right way; our tone wasn't really the best. We went there as ourselves, and correct me if I'm wrong, I don't think any of us were ungrateful or impolite."

Mohamad Nazry, publications manager, International Chamber of Commerce, "I don't think that the people were being rude. I think it was the nature of the whole forum and, you know, we were there and we were asked to ask questions, and we wanted to have all our questions in. We were being quite excited about the thing also."

Seven of the original 10 participants are being reunited for a show hosted by Diana Ser to hear what they think of the post-dialogue reactions.

Mabel Lee, presenter, MediaCorp Radio, said, "Ironically, I am heartened to see that there has been some kind of backlash, because I think if anything it shows that people do care enough to want to have their say, to want to have their positions known. I think that's very important for any nation."

One of the things that the participants did agree on was that they hope to see more programmes like this, where there are open and frank discussions between Singaporeans and their leaders.

"That Dialogue - Was I Rude Or...?" will be telecast on Channel NewsAsia at 8.30pm on Thursday. - CNA /ct