A watershed election in more ways than one

By CHEA MENG HOONG

E VERY general election is said to be a watershed. In 1991, there was a record for seats falling to opposition candidates. 15 years later, there is every indication that GE 2006 will prove similarly pivotal.

When the dust settles, this will also mark the first GE where young Singaporeans make up 35 per cent of the voting age population. It is about the future of the country and the political landscape in the years ahead. It is about the future of the Workers' Party, which aims to become a First World government in Singapore, and the WP candidates who want to be part of it.

The WP's secretary-general has described the GE as a referendum on the opposition. On many issues and in many states, the GE allows the WP to present a viable alternative and a clear commitment to the needs of Singaporeans.

GE 2006 is about the government's performance in the past five years, and the need to have a more capable government.

The WP's strategy appears to be putting all its chips on the table. The WP leaders and candidates are pushing an all-or-nothing campaign, with a focus on the future and a message of change. The WP aims to win a majority in GE 2006, and to form a government that will work for the people.

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