MPS baring their thoughts candidly on public blogs – that’s something I never thought I’d see.

I was surprised to find that the level of interaction between MPs and readers on the P65 blogsite (www.p65.sg) is robust and extensive.

There are compliments and encouragements, but some of the readers’ comments are severe and hard-hitting.

The very fact that these comments are available for all to read demonstrates the open nature of the blog and the sincerity of the effort to reach out to youths.

However, whether it will succeed in bridging the perceived communication gap between youths and political leaders is still too early to say.

Certainly, young Singaporeans who have issues to champion will now have a greater chance of being heard.

But what is really needed is for the leaders to spend more time with the youths.

I understand that many of the MPs are probably too busy to respond to every request of assistance, and whatever they do, there will always be someone who will say that that isn’t enough.

What is more important, however, is that the P65 MPs spend more time to truly understand the hearts and minds of young Singaporeans.

This will dispel the feeling among some youths that they do not have the power and influence to change anything.

Just as relationships require time to become strong, forming a bond between youths and the nation’s leaders will take an investment of time and effort as well.

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