PM Lee, replying to a question from a viewer on why an adversarial approach to politics still seems to be preferred today:

“Politics today, I think, is much less adversarial than it was when the communists were around. Then, it was really hammer and tongs, and it went on day after day, all hours, and without restraint. Today it is a much more restrained business, and that is good. Secondly, I would say it depends on which parties you are talking about. Not all opposition parties are the same. Some work within our system and try to play a constructive role. Others try to pull down the system and bring it into disrepute. And I think there is a difference in the way they approach politics and the way we approach them.”

PM Lee on whether there are different standards for opposition and PAP candidates:

“Yes, I think there are double standards. People expect less of the opposition. I think people have high expectations of PAP candidates. Some candidates are like lightning rods – they attract attention and sometimes lightning. But I have confidence in our candidates. We went through the process very carefully. I think that they are good candidates. I don’t think everything which has been said about them is fair. There will be criticisms, and it is valid for people to have views and to criticise. It is legitimate. But I would say let them prove themselves.”

Assistant Professor Eugene Tan, Singapore Management University:

“There is a concern about whether people (who) go into politics have that conviction, that motivation (to serve)... (the concern is) that perhaps... they want the road straightened for them... I am not sure that we have actually developed that public service ethos. Many people view ministerial salaries with concern because we are a very young society, and it seems like people will only come in to serve if there is something attractive at the end of it all. So the question here is... is (there something about) the way that the Government practises its politics that somehow marginalises people so that people are not willing to jump into the fray?”

Mr Dick Yip, retired teacher:

“There is a large pool of retirees in their 60s and 70s with lots of talent and (are) very experienced. They are not working now because they have retired, but they are still economically very productive. They are willing to work. Many have spoken to me, that is if there are good incentives for them to be engaged in any kind of work, (they can be) very productive... But maybe because of foreign talent again... we have our own talent, we have a lot of talented people.”

Mr Edmund Koh Joo Peng, law student, Singapore Management University:

“I am a resident in Potong Pasir. PM... I feel that most people actually support Mr Chiam as a person because he actually serves the people. And the people of Potong Pasir... feel that he can represent our needs better. But isn’t it unfair to (penalise) us because we live in Potong Pasir? We now have (estate upgrading plans prioritised) based on the area you live in, and looking at, say, Bishan-Toa Payoh, where they have their new five-year masterplan, Potong Pasir has been left out of the upgrading queue twice already.”