Policies must adapt to changing families, society: Desmond Lee

Singapore must find new common spaces as country grows more ethnically diverse

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Singapore needs to keep reviewing its policies to accommodate people and families in different circumstances, as more people are being born or are less likely to be married, said Mr Lee. He called for greater integration of the arts to cater to different cultural and religious groups in the arts and culture scene.

“Changing families have the potential to change the landscape in which Singaporeans live in,” said Mr Lee. “We must try to devise new systems of common spaces for all to share. These spaces should not be exclusive or just for certain groups.”

His comments came after Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam said on Thursday that the lack of income inequality is a problem that Singapore must face now. Mr Shanmugaratnam added that the government is looking for solutions to this issue.

“I have been thinking about common spaces a lot for a while,” said Mr Lee. “We need to create new spaces that are inclusive and welcoming for all people. These spaces can be physical or virtual.

“Singaporeans have a strong sense of community and a desire to come together,” he added. “We must work to create new spaces that reflect this spirit of togetherness.”

Mr Lee said that the government should also consider the needs of different groups, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and those from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

He called for more efforts to make common spaces accessible to everyone, regardless of age, race, or ability.

“Common spaces must be inclusive and up-to-date, reflecting the diversity of Singaporeans,” he said. “We must work towards creating a more equitable society where everyone feels included.”

According to Mr Lee, the current wave of immigration and the growing multicultural society make it important for Singaporeans to adapt and learn from each other.

“I believe that common spaces can be a place for people to come together and learn from each other,” he said. “We must work towards creating a more harmonious society where everyone feels included.”

Mr Lee also called for more efforts to promote cultural understanding and respect among Singaporeans.

“Common spaces must reflect the richness of Singaporean culture and the diversity of its people,” he said. “We must work towards creating a more harmonious society where everyone feels included.”

Source: The Straits Times, pA4

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Slowing down economic growth will not help create more equal society: Josephine Teo

Lim Tean

Deliberately slowing down Singapore’s economic growth will not result in a more equal society, said Mrs Teo yesterday.

Mrs Teo said that the government must focus on creating new opportunities for all, instead of relying on past successes.

“Slowing down economic growth will create a perception that the government is trying to protect the wealthy,” said Mrs Teo. “This will create a sense of resentment among the middle class.

“Instead, we must create new opportunities for all, including those who are less well-off,” she added. “This will help to create a more equal society.”

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