

When I was first invited to speak at this rally for the Presidential Elections, I found myself being at a loss for words on what to speak about.

This is because the Presidential Elections is vastly different from the General Elections.

We are not here to view a war of words. We are not here to fight for the right to run your constituency and nation.

We are here today for a different purpose. And today I will speak about this purpose.

Many people have expressed concern about the Presidential Elections.

Some have said, that this has turned into a media circus. From two consecutive walkovers, Singaporeans are now faced with a four-cornered fight, and many are still undecided about how to vote.

Many Singaporeans also do not know what exactly it is they are voting for.

There is confusion. There is an unwillingness to take sides, for fear that it may cause a deeper rift amongst different groups of Singaporeans with different beliefs.

The role of the Elected President has continued to remain vague because of the perceived inaction of the previous President.

With that, I would like to encourage all of us to hold the role of the Elected President to scrutiny.

We do not need a President that remains Silent on the issues affecting this nation.

We do not need a President who is a Figurehead.

More importantly, we do not need a Yes-Man for President.

What we need is a President who can go beyond fulfilling his ceremonial duties, to apply moral pressure on the Government where needed.

Do not be mistaken in thinking that we are endorsing a candidate who is opposing for the sake of opposition.

However, we need a President who will have the moral courage to stand up to the Government when things are not right.

We need a President who will dare to speak up for us, and to ask, "Is this fair to the people of Singapore?"

It has been said that the Elected President needs to be a non-partisan, unifying figure for Singaporeans.

BUT, the Elected President can only be a unifying figure if he first recognises the diversity within our society.

He can be a unifying figure if he acknowledges that we are all unique individuals with different viewpoints, instead of squeezing us into the same mold of groupthink.

He can be a unifying figure if he recognises that there our society is a vibrant one, with more colours other than the colour White.

The Elected President can only be a unifying figure if he helps to speak up for the people, the less fortunate in society, who are unable to speak up for themselves.

So my fellow Singaporeans, as you go to the polls this Saturday, I hope that you remember three things:

One - You have a purpose. Your vote holds the power to push for transparency and clarity on what the role of the Elected President entails.

Two - A President can only be a unifying figure for the people if he first understands the diversity of opinions and needs in the Singapore society.

Three - The time is now for us to pick a President with the moral courage to serve the best interests of the nation.

Thank you.