

The Decadence Of My Country

By Tan Jun Jie

It was the year 2030. I had just passed my 28th birthday. The news of the election was a shocker to most people. The ruling party was narrowly defeated. Everyone hoped to wake up to a new beginning. The new government seems to be generous and trustworthy, albeit, for a start. It wasn't too long before the signs of corruption, greed and decadence became more and more evident.

The new government was not very honest in most of their dealings and was subtly rewarding themselves with many perks and incentives. All these acts of corruption were draining the coffers of the state treasury. Some of these corrupt officials were quietly depositing their monies overseas. The machinery in the past, namely the CPIB(Corrupt Practice Investigation Bureau) that used to catch these types of corrupted officials were already rusting and its officers themselves were accepting bribes. The common people only knew how bad the situation was when the costs of living suddenly spiral out of control. My family like many others realized the depreciating value of money. All our savings now seems worthless as the country's economy declines daily due to the massive corruption. As if that was not bad enough, the people took to the streets to protest against the incumbent government. They wanted the former government back but it was not going to be easy. After some amount of protests on the streets, the current government suddenly implemented dictatorial rule. There was not going to be any new elections. My family and friends were now braced for the worst. The Singapore that we knew was going to be a distant past and we were now entering an era known as the 'Black Singapore.' I lost my job soon after as the multinational company I was working for suddenly decided to close shop. Without a job to sustain the people, life became increasingly more and more difficult.

Alas, the government and its institutions due to its corruption have set Singapore on a back-sliding mode. However, that was not the only problem. The society and the people in general because of the tough times, began to get from bad to worse also. Greed became prevalent. Everyone was thinking for themselves and hoping to enrich themselves in any way. Shopkeepers took advantage of the shortfall in goods to raise prices. The basic necessities of life like rice, food items, baby food and even mineral water became expensive. Everyone seems to follow suit to make their money. Even plumbers, electricians and all sorts of repairmen were charging more than the usual for their jobs. The children in school even could not afford to buy school materials and it added to the woes of the already ailing educational system. My grandmother was now lamenting that there is a black market in Singapore like the old Japanese war times. Many households like mine became more and more Spartan because we either cannot afford to maintain

our appliances or definitely to buy any new ones. The healthcare system suffered much because the greedy medical institutions were only treating the rich and not the poor. More and more people were struggling with their lives and the society as a whole was really sick.

The massive corruption and the insatiable greed were rotting the society day by day. The very foundations of our society were disintegrating. Like a house that has its foundations rotted by termites and the harsh weather elements, it was only a matter of time before the house would start to collapse. Like the house, the people of Singapore soon faced the horror of decadence of its society. Everything that was like a wall to protect Singapore in the past started to collapse. The wall of public institutions that look after the education, welfare, utilities and even defence were non-existent. Overnight, Singapore had declined from a first world country to even worse than a third world country. The other wall which represents the morality of Singapore was also crumbling fast as the greed of the society makes people to lose all moral sense and behave like animals. Crime and other social ills were now common place. The third wall of ethnic peace had also been torn apart as the many types of people that made up Singapore became suspicious of each other. Racial slurs and hatred soon spread and Singapore divides itself into racial enclaves which made the situation even worse. Literally, all my friends and myself found ourselves divided as the racial divide became even worse each day. Imagine a house with most of its walls collapsing. Soon there will be no roof over our heads. Now is the year 2040. Singapore has changed completely. My family and friends are now experiencing our worst nightmare and we can only hope for a better tomorrow.

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