

PM Lee addresses

IT IS very important for Singapore to get its politics right because constructive politics will help it scale new heights, but wrong politics will doom it, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on May 28 as he joined the ongoing debate in Parliament over constructive politics, first mentioned in the President's Address on May 16.

Mr Lee criticised Workers' Party chief Low Thia Khiang's May 26 speech and responded to Mr Low's

point "that whatever way 'politics' is described and coloured, it is still politics". Mr Lee said: "Politics cannot just be about politics alone. Singaporeans' lives and Singapore's future are at stake."

Mr Lee also touched on the country's transport system. He said the Government will continue to subsidise and invest resources to improve the public transport system.

However, commuters must also be

'Singaporeans First' may not be best

A "SINGAPOREANS First" manpower policy may not work well for the country as "employers may feel constrained and be unable to hire the best person for the job", said Senior Minister of State for Manpower Amy Khor on May 27.

Dr Khor was responding to Ms Foo Mee Har, MP for West Coast GRC, who spoke in Parliament on May 26 when she mentioned that the hiring and development of Singaporeans should be actively promoted and championed.

Compelling employers to hire local professionals, managers and executives without the right skills, however, will introduce "sig-

nificant labour market rigidity", said Dr Khor. "Employers may feel constrained and be unable to hire the best person for the job. That may ultimately hurt Singaporeans when companies find their manpower needs unmet and they relocate some or all of their operations elsewhere," she added.

Dr Khor also stressed that in a globalised economy, competition for jobs is not just within countries, but also among countries.

"As a small city-state, we must be able to first compete with other cities for job opportunities by making sure that Singapore remains an attractive place for businesses," she said.

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