

Release No: 26/SEP

02-1/88/09/13

SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER MR LEE KUAN YEW
AT THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY HELD AT
THE STATE ROOM, ISTANA, ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1988

This is the eighth time I am presenting to the Head of State a Cabinet for swearing-in after a general election. It will be my last.

On the last occasion, in January 1985, I said my role was that of goalkeeper, with my colleague the first deputy prime minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong, as striker.

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On this occasion, speaking metaphorically, we have agreed that I will be the Chairman and he will be the Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore Corporation. For all effective purposes he, and the team he has chosen, are in charge. He and his team will take the initiatives and set the pace, the policies, the programs and the directions.

Political leaders are judged:

First, by how effectively they have exercised their authority in the interests of their people;

Second, by the way they have provided for continuity so that a successor government will continue to protect and advance the interests of their people;

Third, by the grace with which they leave office and hand over to their successors.

Those who are elected to office by secret ballot cannot decide the circumstances of their departure. And departures can be abrupt, and merciless. Even a great

figure in history, like Winston Churchill, was unceremoniously bundled out of office in July 1959, and after fighting and winning a great war from 1940-1945. I

am therefore thankful that Singaporeans, by supporting the PAP in the 8th

General Election since 1959, have allowed me to choose the manner and circumstance in which I shall leave office.

Now my duty is to ensure that all will go well in the two years before I hand over the prime ministership to Mr Goh Chok Tong. All my colleagues in this Cabinet are younger than me. I commend them to you for swearing into office. They have the ability, the integrity, and the experience to defend and advance the interests of the people of Singapore.

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