

# **POLITICS VS GOOD GOVERNANCE**

**Lim Kah Cheng**

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# **POLITICS**

**The art or science of government or governing**

**The methods or tactics involved in managing a state or government**

**any activity concerned with the acquisition (and/or retention) of power**

# POLITICS

the complex or aggregate of relationships of people in society, especially those relationships involving authority or power

*Collins English Dictionary*

# Good Governance

## 8 major characteristics

1. Participatory
2. consensus oriented
3. effective and efficient(=competency=C)
4. accountable, (A)
5. transparent (T)
6. responsive
7. equitable and inclusive and
8. follows the rule of law.

# Why Good Governance

- ❖ Corruption is minimised
- ❖ views of minorities taken into account
- ❖ the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making
- ❖ responsive to the present **and future** needs of society.

*United Nations ESCAP*

SINCE 2008

## **Positive Impact of Politics (P and p) on Governance:**

Possibility of 2 party system->competition

Increase in Democratic Space in the State-eg.  
NGO reps in local authorities, speakers' sq, NGO participation in MMK

Professed adoption of CAT principles in govt, eg.  
Better management of finance, FOI Act,

# Negative Politics in Governance:

1. Structure/ system of governance largely un-changed, eg.

centralization of power –eg. Public transport, finance, civil service

old fed laws-eg TCPA 1976-method of consultation on devt appltns –only those within 20metres (asking dev/r to det neighb/rs for notices, high rise residents w/out strata not served notices

# 1. Structure Unchanged:

local auth guidelines not apply to reclaimed areas/no proper planning

fed projects without consultation **contrary to S.20A of TCPA 1976:Duty to consult: It shall be the duty of every Fed and State Govt dept/agency to consult the Com. on any devt activity that it proposes to carry out within the State.**



## 2. System weighted in favour of developers, eg. OSC, SPEAD Council

Aim of OSC to speed up dev/rs' applns -stars based on how fast applns approved, approved by only 4 councilors, role of local authority

Influence of SPEAD = comprising reps from local authorities and surveyors, planners, engineers, architects and developers. Meets regularly to resolve issues in approvals/ guidelines and policies

Making Tanjung Bungah into primary devp/ment corridor

Automatic renewal of approved plans-5 times eg. those involving hill slopes

3. **Political influence** in approval of plans: lobby by developers, who walks the corridors of power?
4. **Politicisation** in delivery of services, eg racial Politics by oppsn, ADUN interference –in enforcement, demoralization of civil servants
5. Seeking **Popularity**-rebate for offenders, car park charges remaining low, review of assessment rates

## 6. Inadequate democratic participation

- ▶ Councillors not elected/selected based on P
- ▶ Lack of public participation in local authority meetings as provided in Section 23 of the LGA
- ▶ Lack of information, eg budget
- ▶ Lack of public inquiry for big projects

## **7. Lack of a Sustainable Political Ideology->Oppportunism**

Promotes profit maximization over sustainable development, eg higher density, no enforcement agst those polluting environment eg rivers, allows hill cutting

## **8. Lack of a Local Plan**

**All development orders, layout/ building plans, commencement of work, change of use, tree cutting, landscape, naming of roads, etc must be obtained from the local authorities. Applications to the OSC.**

**Uncertainty**

**Open to abuse and corruption**

**No proper planning-ad hoc**

**Allows for lobbying by the rich and politically connected**

**Need to fight for green lungs and public amenities**

# What is the Local Plan?

Development Planning for the whole island up to 2020 determining land use and density for every single plot of land on the island

(except for land to be reclaimed)

# What needs to be done?

- ▶ **People power for good governance**
- ▶ **Fight for more democratic space-attend co. meetings, more public hearings, attend appeal board hearings, budget hearings**
- **Pressure State Govt to publish LP for public viewing/org public briefings by the consultants/org groups to give written objns, comments/suggestions within the time provided**

# What needs to be done?

- **Structural changes needed in local govt/  
more professionalism**
- **Get involved/get organised/increase  
public awareness on issues like global  
warming, sustainable devt**
- **Need for a more pro people party to take  
over the fed govt to change fed laws/  
decentralise/ stop corruption/ proper use  
of resources**



# Politics and Good Governance

No good governance without political involvement

We owe it to our future generation- not just addressing current problems but act for the future needs of society.