

Slower pace of life, economic growth not mutually exclusive: Shanmugam

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Law and Foreign Affairs Minister K Shanmugam has said a slower pace of life cannot be divorced from economic growth.



File photo: Law and Foreign Affairs Minister K Shanmugam. (AFP)

SINGAPORE: Law and Foreign Affairs Minister K Shanmugam has said a slower pace of life cannot be divorced from economic growth.

He was responding to a recent survey by the Institute of Policy Studies that revealed the majority of Singaporeans would like a comfortable pace of life over economic development.

Mr Shanmugam was speaking at a fireside chat with law students from the National University of Singapore and the Singapore Management University.

He noted that people often divorce the idea of growth from their personal income, but he stressed that economic growth has a direct impact on employment and salaries.

Mr Shanmugam also said while a greater amount of online discourse has emerged -- which means having to engage public opinion on specific issues of interest -- the essential nature of how the government operates has not changed.

He said: "I think the fact that you have a much greater amount of discourse in online media does mean that (the government now has) to go out there and engage public opinion on specific issues when it becomes something that people become interested in. But the essential nature of what we do has not changed."



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"What I did in (2008) and what I'm doing now is broadly the same, as I tell audience after audience when I go and meet them. If you want to come up with policies, you do need your civil servants, you do need your policies. But no minister can effectively make the judgment calls... unless you have your finger on the pulse."

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