

Promise of Leadership Dialogue

Themes from Session Four of the Promise of Leadership:

In this session table discussions focused on outlining the qualities shared by identified leaders, as well as pinpointing the characteristics and environments that lead to the corruption of leaders.

Tables identified leaders from political, business and sport spheres, and a few tables made mention of community and family leaders.

There was a range of qualities of good leaders identified, but prominent across all discussions was the need for leaders who had humility and integrity, were committed to service and were consultative and approachable.

Vision, drive, sacrifice and transparency also featured across most discussions.

Tables were divided on the issue of crafting a legacy. Many tables expressed the idea that consciously “crafting or creating” a legacy distorts that very legacy – because a legacy should emerge from your primary good work, rather than be your primary motivation.

Others felt that making a conscious decision was the only way to grow a legacy. These people expressed the idea that you cannot leave it to chance, and should decide what you wish to be remembered for and actively pursue that.

Lastly, tables looked to identify the characteristics and environmental factors that can turn leaders into despots. It was generally agreed that greed, fear, insecurity and ego made for despotic tendencies. A loss of focus and purpose were also identified as contributing factors.

Tables made mention of the role that “yes men” and nepotism have to play, noting that we need, as an electorate, to hold our leaders accountable for their actions.