

Reflections

Choosing the right leaders

THE EU referendum was a historical necessity. It was not only an opportunity to exercise our franchise in the democratic decision making process but also to learn a lesson from it.

Ever since the EU referendum campaign began, we were inundated with floods of events, rallies and debates across UK. Newspapers, magazines, bulletins, radio and television channels bombarded us with information that had mix of confusion and clarity.

Both the sides 'remain' and 'leave' tried to bring in to their campaign every possible tactic to argue their proposition. Both the sides inevitably used the words like, 'job, control, safer, NHS, deal, money, trade, business and security' interpreting latest statistics as they saw fit to persuade the electorate in their favour.

From the debates of this referendum, the general public emerges with a huge volume of knowledge and information about EU and UK functionality, much more now than before which was usually overly reserved for the politicians and bureaucrats.

Some of the arguments and debates were really informative, objective and helpful to make decision about which side to



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vote but sadly there were also scaremongering and misleading statistics with half truths and lies causing confusion to the listeners and viewers.

In democracy, most of the time, campaigners' fine speech determines the number of votes and increases the possibility of success. The listeners and the viewers are influenced to imagine that the 'erudite and convincing speakers present the objective truth and will be great leaders'. But in reality it is not so all the time. History has accounts of good speakers being bad leaders and bad leaders being good speakers.

Among many, although democracy is acclaimed as the best form of governance, still it needs reform to achieve its potential purpose. Perhaps reflecting on the following text would be a help as well. 'Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I will appoint them as your heads.' Deuteronomy 1:13.