

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

Second Session

**SECOND REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE
ON NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT
AS NOMINATED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

Parl. 14 of 2018

Presented to Parliament on

17 September 2018

COMPOSITION OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE
(as at 17 September 2018)

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (Marine Parade) (*Chairman*)

Mr Chee Hong Tat (Bishan-Toa Payoh)
Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry & Ministry of Education

Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien (Yuhua)
Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Leader of the House

Dr Koh Poh Koon (Ang Mo Kio)
Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry

Ms Sylvia Lim (Aljunied)

Mrs Josephine Teo (Bishan-Toa Payoh)
Minister for Manpower & Second Minister for Home Affairs

Mr Vikram Nair (Sembawang)

Mr Lawrence Wong (Marsiling-Yew Tee)
Minister for National Development & Second Minister for Finance

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**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE
ON NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT
AS NOMINATED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

The Special Select Committee, appointed pursuant to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore to nominate persons for appointment by the President as nominated Members of Parliament, has agreed to the following Report:

Introduction

1 On 22 March 2016, the President, on the nomination of the Special Select Committee of Parliament, appointed 9 persons as nominated Members of Parliament for a term of two and a half years. The term of service of the 9 nominated Members of Parliament expired on 21 September 2018. Under section 4(1) of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, the vacancies that arise shall be filled by the President by making appointments on the nomination of the Special Select Committee.

2 The Members of the Special Select Committee (Committee) were nominated by the Committee of Selection, with Speaker as ex-officio Chairman. The Committee comprised the following members:

Chairman: Mr Tan Chuan-Jin (Speaker)

Members: Mr Chee Hong Tat

Ms Grace Fu

Dr Koh Poh Koon

Ms Sylvia Lim

Mrs Josephine Teo

Mr Vikram Nair

Mr Lawrence Wong

Invitation to the General Public to Submit Names of Persons for Consideration by the Committee

3 Under sections 2(1) and 2(2) of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, the Committee agreed that an advertisement inviting the general public to submit names of persons for consideration by the Committee be published in Lianhe Zaobao, Berita Harian, Tamil Murasu and The Straits Times on 4 June 2018. A press release was also issued to this effect.

4 To broaden its outreach to the public and better facilitate the nomination process, the Committee decided to make the entire nomination process on-line: from availability of the proposal and curriculum vitae forms on the Parliament website to the submission of such forms and references by email. This is in addition to the hardcopies available for collection from the Parliament Secretariat.

5 Each proposal form must be signed by a proposer and a seconder and by not less than 4 other persons, all of whose names should appear in the current Register of Electors. The person proposed was also required to submit a curriculum vitae form which included an essay on the kind of contribution he hoped to make as a nominated Member of Parliament and to submit written references from two referees. The closing date for the submission of names was 6 July 2018.

Formation of Functional Groups

6 The Committee decided that it would continue the practice of inviting the 7 functional groups, namely, business and industry; labour; the professions; tertiary education institutions; social service organisations; civic and people sector; and the media, arts and sports organisations, to submit names of suitable candidates for the Committee to consider. The Committee was of the view that functional groups continued to perform a relevant role in the nomination process by ensuring that there were good quality candidates proposed from a cross section of society.

7 The names of the coordinators appointed by the Speaker for each functional group and an invitation to organisations identifying themselves with any of the functional groups were publicised by the Committee in a press release issued on 3 June 2018.

Consideration of Persons Proposed

8 By the closing date and time, the Committee received a total of 48 proposal forms. There were 17 names submitted by the functional groups and 31 individual applications.

9 The Committee's process for assessing the persons proposed is contained in the Annex.

10 Section 2(3) of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution provides that, before making any nomination for appointment by the President as nominated Members of Parliament, "the Special Select Committee shall, wherever possible, consult other Members of Parliament in such manner as it thinks fit".

11 On 12 July 2018, elected Members of Parliament were informed of the names of the persons proposed and their comments were sought on the suitability of such persons for appointment as nominated Members of Parliament.

12 The Committee assessed the suitability of all 48 persons proposed. As most of the persons proposed were of a high quality, this made the selection of 9 candidates a challenge. The Committee proceeded to interview some of the persons proposed to obtain a better assessment of the individuals.

13 When assessing each candidate's suitability for appointment as nominated Members of Parliament, the Committee, first and foremost, took into account the criteria set out in section 3(2) of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore, which provided that the persons to be nominated:

- shall be persons who have rendered distinguished public service, or who have brought honour to the Republic, or who have distinguished themselves in the field of arts and letters, culture, the sciences, business, industry, the professions, social or community service or the labour movement; and

- will be able to reflect as wide a range of independent and non-partisan views as possible.

In addition to the above criteria, the Committee also considered whether the persons proposed:

- possessed a record of significant achievement that demonstrates a range of experience, skills and competencies;
- understood the current issues and challenges facing Singapore;
- had the ability to make effective and significant contributions to the debates in Parliament; and
- were willing and able to commit the time necessary to participate in Parliamentary proceedings.

14 The Committee also considered the views and comments submitted by other Members of Parliament before making its nomination.

Nominations of the Committee

15 In its final deliberations, the Committee also considered whether to release the names of all the persons proposed. The Committee noted that many of the candidates had not revealed their names publicly and decided that, on balance, there were still valid reasons for maintaining the confidentiality of the names proposed. Revealing the names of unsuccessful candidates may give rise to speculation and public debate on their suitability. It may also cause discomfort and embarrassment to some candidates. This may deter potential candidates from participating in future nomination exercises.

16 While the Committee found many of the candidates to be well qualified, not more than 9 nominated Members of Parliament can be appointed, as stipulated under section 3(1) of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution. The Committee has therefore nominated the following 9 persons to the President for appointment as nominated Members of Parliament:

(1) **Mr Arasu s/o Duraisamy**

Mr Arasu is the General Secretary of the Singapore Port Workers Union (SPWU) and an elected member of the NTUC Central Committee. He has been involved with the Labour Movement for the last 25 years, having first joined as a union member in 1993. He currently chairs the NTUC Maritime Cluster, is Vice-Chairman of the Industrial Relations Committee (Service Sector) and the Training Committee (Trade & Connectivity), represents the NTUC in the Public Transport Council and serves in various other Boards. Mr Arasu has also represented the SPWU in the International Transport Workers' Federation.

(2) **Mr Foo Peow Yong Douglas**

Mr Foo is Chairman of Sakae Holdings Ltd and the President of the Singapore Manufacturing Federation which represents more than 3,000 corporate members. Mr Foo is also Vice Chairman of the Singapore Business Federation and the Vice President of the Singapore National Employers Federation. He was bestowed the National Day Public Service Star 2013 for his social contributions, Asia Corporate Excellence and Sustainability (ACES) "Entrepreneur of the Year" Award 2015 and NTUC Friend of Labour Award in 2016.

(3) **Mr Ho Wee San**

Mr Ho is the Managing Director of the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO). He expanded the outreach and profile of the SCO by performing at festivals abroad to positive acclaim and made the SCO more accessible to Singaporeans by organising many concerts and activities in the heartlands. Mr Ho contributes to the arts community by serving in various committees in the National Arts Council and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and has worked with the Ministry of Education to guide the development of the Singapore National Youth Chinese Orchestra.

(4) **Professor Lim Sun Sun**

Prof Lim is Professor of Communication and Technology and Head of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at the Singapore University of Technology and Design. She is currently a member of the Media Literacy Council which works in partnership with industry, community and the Government to develop public education programmes to promote media literacy and cyber-wellness. Prof Lim previously served as the Chair of the New Media Taskforce under the National Committee on Youth Guidance & Rehabilitation.

(5) **Mr Abbas Ali Mohamed Irshad**

Mr Mohamed Irshad is the founder and Director of Roses of Peace (ROP), a non-profit organisation with the aim of promoting inter-faith understanding and dialogue. Through ROP, he organised a variety of workshops, forums and initiatives, in particular the Peace Ambassador Programme, which empowers youths in spreading the message of inclusivity and social harmony. In recognition of his efforts, Mr Mohamed Irshad was also appointed as Ambassador by various organisations, such as OnePeople.sg, REACH Singapore and Jamiyah Singapore.

(6) **Ms Ong Lay Theng Anthea**

Ms Ong is a founder/CEO of Anagami Pte Ltd, a corporate social responsibility consultancy. She is also a social entrepreneur and started many initiatives, including A Good Space, an initiative that brings various communities together to promote sharing, dialogue and collaboration; the Hush Teabar, a workplace wellness programme and social enterprise for the hearing impaired; Our Tree Stories, a nature awareness and conservation programme; Playground for Joy, for special needs children and Project Yoga-on-Wheels for the underprivileged, among other social enterprises.

(7) **Ms Quay Siew Ching Irene**

Ms Quay is a certified pharmacist and is an Assistant Director in the Allied Health Office at the KK Women's and Children's Hospital. She is President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore and had served on several national bodies, including the Ministry of Health's National Standards for Pharmacy Services and Drug Advisory Committee. She is a keen innovator and has received many awards for work improvement projects. Ms Quay was awarded the National Day Commendation Medal in 2016 for her contributions.

(8) **Associate Professor Walter Edgar Theseira**

Assoc Prof Theseira is Head, Master of Management (Urban Transportation) at the School of Business, Singapore University of Social Sciences. His area of research includes labour and transport issues. He is currently a member of the Research Advisory Panel, Ministry of Social and Family Development and Director, Singapore Taxi Academy. Assoc Prof Theseira had served as Member on the Advisory Committee on Moneylending, Ministry of Law and Panel of Experts in the Economics Unit, Ministry of Education.

(9) **Ms Yip Pin Xiu**

Ms Yip is a national athlete and paralympian swimmer who has represented Singapore at international levels since 2005. She won numerous gold medals at world and regional meets, including Singapore's first gold medal in the 50m backstroke at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games in a world record time. She bettered the feat at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, winning both the 50m and 100m backstroke at world record times. For her contributions and achievements, Ms Yip has received many awards including the Meritorious Service Medal in 2008, Sports Girl of the Year 2005/2006/2007, Singapore Youth Award 2010 and Straits Times Athlete of the Year 2015.

**PROCESS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
PERSONS PROPOSED AS NOMINATED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

1 The Special Select Committee's (Committee) process for the consideration of persons proposed as nominated Members of Parliament is as follows:

STEP 1

2 The Committee will inform elected Members of Parliament of the persons proposed and seek their views on the suitability of such persons for appointment as nominated Members of Parliament.

STEP 2

3 The Committee will meet to scrutinise all the applications and consider the views received from other Members of Parliament. The Committee will then decide on the persons to invite for an interview. In deliberating on the persons to interview, the Committee is guided by the criteria contained in paragraph 13 of this Report.

STEP 3

4 The Committee will meet over a few days to interview selected candidates.

STEP 4

5 Following the interviews, the Committee will meet to discuss and agree on the persons to nominate for appointment by the President as nominated Members of Parliament. In its deliberations on the persons to recommend for appointment, the Committee is again guided by the criteria contained in paragraph 13 of this Report.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

7th Meeting

Friday, 1 June 2018
11.10 am

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (*in the Chair*)
Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Ms Sylvia Lim
Mrs Josephine Teo
Vikram Nair
Lawrence Wong

ABSENT:

Chee Hong Tat
Dr Koh Poh Koon

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- 1 The Committee deliberated.
 - 2 The following were considered and approved –
 - (a) invitation to the general public to submit names of persons who may be considered for nomination by the Committee for appointment by the President as nominated Members of Parliament; and
 - (b) the Proposal Form, Form for Curriculum Vitae of the person proposed to be used in the submission of names to the Committee, Submission Guide and FAQ document.
 - 3 *Agreed* –
 - (a) that the invitation be inserted as an advertisement in one Chinese, one Malay, one Tamil and one English local newspaper on Monday, 4 June 2018;
 - (b) that the closing date for the submission of names to the Committee be Friday, 6 July 2018;
 - (c) that the Proposal Form and Form for Curriculum Vitae of the person proposed be made available on the Parliament website and may be submitted by hardcopy or emailed to the Committee;

- (d) that elected Members of Parliament be consulted on the persons the Committee is considering for nomination;
- (e) that the Chairman invites coordinators and representatives of the seven functional groups and their constituent organisations for a tea session to inform them of the procedure in submitting nominations to the Committee;
- (f) that a press statement on the invitation for submission of names to the Special Select Committee for the nomination of Members of Parliament be issued; and
- (g) that a second press statement on the number of Proposal Forms received be issued after 4.30 pm on Monday, 9 July 2018.

Adjourned till 2.30 pm on
Tuesday, 31 July 2018

8th Meeting

Tuesday, 31 July 2018
2.30 pm

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (*in the Chair*)
Chee Hong Tat
Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Dr Koh Poh Koon
Ms Sylvia Lim
Mrs Josephine Teo
Vikram Nair

ABSENT:

Lawrence Wong

- 1 The Committee deliberated.
- 2 The Committee considered –
 - (a) the 48 proposals received from members of the public and the functional groups, namely, business and industry, the professions, the labour movement, social service organisations, civic and people sector, tertiary education institutions, and media, arts and sports organisations, for consideration by the Committee as nominated Members of Parliament; and
 - (b) the views and comments received from elected Members of Parliament and the referees respectively.
- 3 *Agreed –*
 - (a) that the Committee do interview certain persons proposed on Tuesday 14 August 2018, Thursday 16 August 2018 and Friday 17 August 2018.

Adjourned till 2.30 pm on
Tuesday, 14 August 2018

9th Meeting

Tuesday, 14 August 2018
2.30 pm

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (*in the Chair*)
Chee Hong Tat
Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Dr Koh Poh Koon
Ms Sylvia Lim
Mrs Josephine Teo
Vikram Nair
Lawrence Wong

- 1 The Committee deliberated.
- 2 The Committee interviewed persons proposed.
- 3 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Thursday, 16 August 2018 at 2.50 pm to continue interviewing certain persons proposed.

Adjourned till 2.50 pm on
Thursday, 16 August 2018

10th Meeting

Thursday, 16 August 2018
2.50 pm

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (*in the Chair*)
Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Dr Koh Poh Koon
Ms Sylvia Lim
Mrs Josephine Teo
Vikram Nair
Lawrence Wong

ABSENT:

Chee Hong Tat

- 1 The Committee deliberated.
- 2 The Committee interviewed persons proposed.
- 3 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Friday, 17 August 2018 at 2.30 pm to continue interviewing certain persons proposed.

Adjourned till 2.30 pm on
Friday, 17 August 2018

11th Meeting

Friday, 17 August 2018
2.30 pm

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (*in the Chair*)
Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Dr Koh Poh Koon
Ms Sylvia Lim
Mrs Josephine Teo
Vikram Nair
Lawrence Wong

ABSENT:

Chee Hong Tat

-
- 1 The Committee deliberated.
 - 2 The Committee interviewed persons proposed.
 - 3 Agreed that the Committee do meet again to finalise its recommendations to the President and its report to Parliament.

Adjourned to a date to be fixed.

12th Meeting

Tuesday, 11 September 2018
11.00 am

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (*in the Chair*)
Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Ms Sylvia Lim
Mrs Josephine Teo
Vikram Nair
Lawrence Wong

ABSENT:

Chee Hong Tat
Dr Koh Poh Koon

1 The Committee deliberated.

2 Agreed that the following nine persons be nominated to the President for appointment as nominated Members of Parliament:

- (1) Mr Arasu s/o Duraisamy
- (2) Mr Foo Peow Yong Douglas
- (3) Mr Ho Wee San
- (4) Professor Lim Sun Sun
- (5) Mr Abbas Ali Mohamed Irshad
- (6) Ms Ong Lay Theng Anthea
- (7) Ms Quay Siew Ching Irene
- (8) Associate Professor Walter Edgar Theseira
- (9) Ms Yip Pin Xiu

Report

- 3 The Chairman's report brought up and read the first time.
- 4 Resolved, "That the Chairman's report be read a second time paragraph by paragraph."
- Paragraphs 1 to 16 inclusive read and agreed to.
- Paragraphs 1 to 5 inclusive of the Annex to the Chairman's report read and agreed to.
- 5 Resolved, "That this report be the report of the Committee to Parliament."
- 6 Agreed that the Chairman do present the report to Parliament once copies are available for distribution to Members of Parliament.

Adjourned sine die