

**FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE**

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**First Session**

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

**Parl. 2 of 2021**

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**Presented to Parliament on**

**14 January 2021**

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## COMPOSITION OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE

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

Mr Chan Chun Sing (Tanjong Pagar)  
*Minister for Trade and Industry*

Mr Gan Kim Yong (Chua Chu Kang)  
*Minister for Health*

Ms Gan Siow Huang (Marymount)  
*Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower*

Ms Indranee Rajah (Tanjong Pagar)  
*Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance, Second Minister for National Development and Leader of the House*

Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman (East Coast)  
*Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs*

Mr Leon Perera (Aljunied)

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan (Holland-Bukit Timah)  
*Minister for Foreign Affairs*

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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 Section 1(2) of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution provides: “Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the President shall, within 6 months after Parliament first sits after any General Election, appoint as nominated Members of Parliament the persons nominated by a Special Select Committee of Parliament.”

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 Chan Chun Sing
	Mr Gan Kim Yong
	Ms Gan Siow Huang
	Ms Indranee Rajah
	Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman
	Mr Leon Perera
	Dr Vivian Balakrishnan

*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 26 October 2020. 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 electronic submission of such forms and references. 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 the person 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 23 November 2020.

*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 26 October 2020.

### *Consideration of Persons Proposed*

8 By the closing date, the Committee received a total of 61 proposal forms. There were 15 names submitted by the functional groups and 46 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 24 November 2020, 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 61 persons proposed. As most of the persons proposed were qualified and of good calibre, the selection of only 9 candidates was a challenging one. 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 considered whether to release the names of all the persons proposed. The Committee took cognisance of the fact that many 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 and reasons for not being selected. This may cause discomfort and embarrassment to some candidates and 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 Abdul Samad Bin Abdul Wahab**

Mr Abdul Samad is one of three Vice-Presidents of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), the General Secretary of the Union of Power and Gas Employees (UPAGE) and Chairman of the NTUC Oil, Petrochemical, Energy and Chemical (OPEC) Cluster of Unions. He has been involved with the Labour Movement for the last 14 years. As NTUC Vice-President, Mr Abdul Samad guides the work of NTUC Committees. He represents the trade union movement on the Boards of SkillsFuture Singapore and the NTUC Learning Hub and is part of the NTUC team in the National Wages Council (NWC). Mr Abdul Samad was a recipient of the Public Service Medal in 2020.

(2) **Ms Janet Ang Guat Har**

Ms Ang is currently Chairperson of SISTIC.com and non-Executive Director at Singapore Press Holdings Limited. She was appointed Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador-Designate to the Holy See in 2020. Ms Ang also chairs the boards of the NUS Institute of Systems Science and Singapore Polytechnic, and is the deputy chair of Singapore Business Federation (SBF) Foundation. In SBF, she chairs the Digitalisation Committee that works closely with Government agencies, trade associations and Chambers of Commerce to address the digital needs of Singapore businesses. She was conferred the Public Service Medal in 2019.

(3) **Mr Chay Jung Jun, Mark**

Mr Chay is Director of Secretariat of Global Esports Federation and a national para swimming coach at the Singapore Disability Sports Council. He was a national athlete and had represented Singapore in swimming at the Olympic Games in 2000 and 2004. Mr Chay is a multiple gold medallist and a record holder at the Southeast Asian Games. He was named Sportsboy of the Year in 2001 and Sportsman of the Year in 2002. He was appointed Chief de Mission at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games and the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Mr Chay continues to contribute by serving as Chairperson of the Singapore National Olympic Council Athlete's Commission.

(4) **Mr Cheng Hsing Yao**

Mr Cheng is currently Group Managing Director at GuocoLand Singapore Pte Ltd. He is also 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the Real Estate Developers Association of Singapore (REDAS) and Executive Committee Member of the Urban Land Institute Singapore. Mr Cheng sits as a Board Member in the National Parks Board and serves as a Member of URA's Design and Advisory Committee and the Heritage & Identity Partnership (HIP). He is also Co-Chairman for BCA's Integrated Digital Delivery Steering Committee and the Central Procurers Panel. Mr Cheng received the Public Administrative Medal (Bronze) in 2006 during his service with URA.

(5) **Professor Hoon Hian Teck**

Prof Hoon is currently Dean of the School of Economics at the Singapore Management University (SMU). He has published widely in macroeconomics, international economics and the Singapore economy and brought recognition to Singapore through his numerous book publications and academic journal articles as well as his visiting professor appointments at Columbia University and Harvard University. Prof Hoon was the recipient of the Fulbright Research Scholarship in 2001 and was a Member of the Tripartite Committee for Low-wage workers and Inclusive Growth from 2015 to 2017.

(6) **Professor Koh Lian Pin**

Prof Koh is a globally recognised conservation scientist who has recently returned to Singapore under the National Research Foundation's Returning Singaporean Scientist Scheme to helm the new Centre for Nature-based Climate Solutions at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He is the sixth recipient of this scheme which seeks to attract overseas-based Singaporean research leaders back to Singapore to take up leadership positions in Singapore's research institutes. Prof Koh is currently Professor of Conservation Science, Technology and Policy at the NUS' Department of Biological Sciences and Member of the Emerging

Stronger Taskforce to guide Singapore's economic recovery out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

(7) **Mr Joshua Thomas Raj**

Mr Raj is a partner at Tang Thomas LLC and Director of TwinRock Pte Ltd, a security agency. He is currently serving as President of Security Association Singapore (SAS). During his tenure as SAS President, the association was recognised by the labour movements for its contributions to workers when it received two May Day Awards (Partner of Labour Movement) in 2018. He also serves as a volunteer lawyer under the Law Society's Criminal Legal Aid Scheme. As Chairman of the NUS Political Science Department's Singapore Forum on Politics and Policy, Mr Raj contributed in encouraging dialogue and engagement with policy makers.

(8) **Dr Shahira Binte Abdullah**

Dr Shahira is currently Associate Consultant with the Dental Surgery Team in Khoo Teck Puat Hospital. She is also serving her first term as Member of the 16th National Youth Council (NYC). Prior to her involvement in NYC, Dr Shahira has been a dedicated youth leader and was the immediate past Vice-President of Mendaki Club (MClub), with a focus on enhancing career development opportunities for youth. In 2019, she was appointed by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth as one of the SG Youth Action Plan Members to reach out to the youth on their vision for Singapore 2025.

(9) **Dr Tan Yia Swam**

Dr Tan is a medical doctor and currently Clinical Director at Thomson Breast Centre. She is one of the youngest persons and the first female to be elected President of the Singapore Medical Association (SMA) in 2020 and is also a Member of the Singapore's Academy of Medicine. She has been a member of the SMA's Editorial Board and Council Member since 2008 and the SMA News Editor from 2014 to 2020. She is also a Member of the Association of Women Doctors,

Singapore. Dr Tan received the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine Dean's award for teaching excellence in 2013 and the Singapore Health Quality Service Award (Gold) in 2018.

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**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

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

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Friday, 23 October 2020

1.30 pm

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#### PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (*in the Chair*)

Chan Chun Sing

Gan Kim Yong

Ms Gan Siow Huang

Ms Indranee Rajah

Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman

Leon Perera

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan

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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, 26 October 2020;
  - (b) that the closing date for the submission of names to the Committee be Monday, 23 November 2020;
  - (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 online or by hardcopy 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 briefing 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 nominated Members of Parliament be issued; and
- (g) that a second press statement on the number of Proposal Forms received be issued on Tuesday, 24 November 2020.

Adjourned till 10.30 am on  
Tuesday, 1 December 2020

## 2nd Meeting

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Tuesday, 1 December 2020  
10.30 am

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### PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (*in the Chair*)

Chan Chun Sing

Gan Kim Yong

Ms Gan Siow Huang

Ms Indranee Rajah

Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman

Leon Perera

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan

- 
- 1 The Committee deliberated.
  - 2 The Committee considered –
    - (a) the 61 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 Thursday 10 December 2020, Tuesday 15 December and Friday 17 December 2020.

Adjourned till 2.30 pm on  
Thursday, 10 December 2020



### **3rd Meeting**

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Thursday, 10 December 2020  
2.30 pm

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#### **PRESENT:**

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (*in the Chair*)

Chan Chun Sing

Gan Kim Yong

Ms Gan Siow Huang

Ms Indranee Rajah

Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman

Leon Perera

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan

- 
- 1 The Committee deliberated.
  - 2 The Committee interviewed persons proposed.
  - 3 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Tuesday, 15 December 2020 at 2.30 pm to continue interviewing certain persons proposed.

Adjourned till 2.30 pm on  
Tuesday, 15 December 2020

#### **4th Meeting**

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Tuesday, 15 December 2020  
2.30 pm

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#### **PRESENT:**

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (*in the Chair*)  
Chan Chun Sing  
Gan Kim Yong  
Ms Gan Siow Huang  
Ms Indranee Rajah  
Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman  
Leon Perera  
Dr Vivian Balakrishnan

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- 1 The Committee deliberated.
- 2 The Committee interviewed persons proposed.
- 3 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Thursday, 17 December 2020 at 2.30 pm to continue interviewing certain persons proposed.

Adjourned till 2.30 pm on  
Thursday, 17 December 2020

### 5th Meeting

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Thursday, 17 December 2020  
2.30 pm

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#### PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin) (*in the Chair*)

Chan Chun Sing

Gan Kim Yong

Ms Gan Siow Huang

Ms Indranee Rajah

Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman

Leon Perera

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan

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- 1 The Committee deliberated.
- 2 The Committee interviewed persons proposed.
- 3 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Wednesday, 6 January 2021 at 9.30 am to finalise its recommendations to the President and its report to Parliament.

Adjourned till 9.30 am on  
Wednesday, 6 January 2021

## 6th Meeting

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Wednesday, 6 January 2021  
9.30 am

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### PRESENT:

Mr Deputy Speaker (Mr Christopher de Souza) (*in the Chair*)  
Chan Chun Sing  
Gan Kim Yong  
Ms Gan Siow Huang  
Ms Indranee Rajah  
Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman  
Leon Perera  
Dr Vivian Balakrishnan

### ABSENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin)

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- 1 Pursuant to Article 43 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore, Deputy Speaker Christopher de Souza chaired the meeting.
- 2 The Committee deliberated.
- 3 Agreed that the following nine persons be nominated to the President for appointment as nominated Members of Parliament:
  - (1) Mr Abdul Samad Bin Abdul Wahab
  - (2) Ms Janet Ang Guat Har
  - (3) Mr Chay Jung Jun, Mark
  - (4) Mr Cheng Hsing Yao
  - (5) Professor Hoon Hian Teck
  - (6) Professor Koh Lian Pin
  - (7) Mr Joshua Thomas Raj
  - (8) Dr Shahira Binte Abdullah
  - (9) Dr Tan Yia Swam

## **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