

FIFTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

First Session

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

Parl. 2 of 2026

Presented to Parliament on

2 January 2026

COMPOSITION OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker (Mr Seah Kian Peng) (Marine Parade-Braddell Heights) (*Chairman*)

Mr Chan Chun Sing (Tanjong Pagar)
Coordinating Minister for Public Services and Minister for Defence

Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis (Sengkang)

Mr Desmond Lee (West Coast-Jurong West)
Minister for Education

Ms Indranee Rajah (Pasir Ris-Changi)
Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance, Second Minister for National Development and Leader of the House

Dr Janil Puthucheary (Punggol)
Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment

Ms Sim Ann (Holland-Bukit Timah)
Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Zaqy Mohamad (Marsiling-Yew Tee)
Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, and Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment

CONTENTS

	<i>Pages</i>
Report of the Special Select Committee	1 – 6
Annex: Process for the Consideration of Persons Proposed... as Nominated Members of Parliament	7
Minutes of Proceedings	8 – 14

Blank Page

**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 Seah Kian Peng (Speaker)

Members: Mr Chan Chun Sing
Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis
Mr Desmond Lee
Ms Indranee Rajah
Dr Janil Puthucheary
Ms Sim Ann
Mr Zaqy Mohamad

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 Berita Harian, Lianhe Zaobao, Tamil Murasu and The Straits Times on 8 October 2025. A press release was also issued to this effect.

4 In addition to the hardcopies available for collection from the Parliament Secretariat, the proposal and curriculum vitae forms were made available on the Parliament website.

5 Each proposal form had to be signed by the nominee, a proposer and a seconder and by not less than four other persons, all of whose names 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 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 6 November 2025.

Formation of Functional Groups

6 The Committee decided to continue the practice of inviting the seven 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 7 October 2025.

Consideration of Persons Proposed

8 By the closing date, the Committee received a total of 57 proposal forms. There were 14 names submitted by the functional groups and 43 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 7 November 2025, 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 57 persons proposed. As most of the persons proposed were qualified and of good calibre, the selection of only nine 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 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 cognizance of the fact that most of the candidates had not revealed their names publicly and decided that, on balance, the reasons for maintaining the confidentiality of the names proposed remain valid. 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 nine 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 nine persons (in alphabetical order) to the President for appointment as nominated Members of Parliament:

(1) **Mr Azhar Bin Othman**

Mr Azhar Othman is the Executive Chairman of Enercon Asia and the CEO and founder of GAED Holdings. He is the Deputy President of the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SMCCI) and Chairman of the SME Centre@SMCCI. He is currently a member of the Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence (ACCORD), the East Asia Business Council, and the Saudi-Singapore Business Council. He was awarded SMCCI Male Entrepreneur of the year in 2022.

(2) **Associate Professor Goh Toh Chuan, Kenneth**

Associate Professor Goh is the President of Singapore Aquatics and an Associate Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship (Education) at the Singapore Management University. He is a former national swimmer, a Board Member of the World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025 and a recipient of the Singapore Sports Council Scholarship and the Lee Kuan Yew

Postgraduate Scholarship. He has written media commentaries on issues ranging from Singapore's sporting ecosystem to workforce inclusivity.

(3) **Dr Haresh S/O Singaraju**

Dr Haresh is the Head of Queenstown Polyclinic and Chair of the Patient and Family Advocacy Committee at the National University Polyclinics (NUP). He is a member of the executive committee of the Chapter of Family Medicine Physicians, Academy of Medicine, Singapore, and was previously co-chair of the NUP Workplace Health Promotion Committee. He is a Fellow of the College of Family Physicians Singapore.

(4) **Associate Professor Terence Ho Wai Luen**

Associate Professor Ho is the Deputy Executive Director and Associate Professor (Practice) at the Institute for Adult Learning, Singapore University of Social Sciences. He is also an Adjunct Associate Professor (Practice) at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and a Board Member of the Civil Service College. He has authored books on public policy and governance in Singapore. Associate Professor Ho was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) (Pingat Pentadbiran Awam) (Perak) in 2023.

(5) **Ms Kuah Boon Theng SC**

Ms Kuah is a Senior Counsel and the Managing Director of Legal Clinic LLC. She serves on the Board of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education and is also a director on the Board of Assisi Hospice, the President of the Tribunal for the Maintenance of Parents, Honorary Legal Advisor to the Singapore Medical Association and the Chairperson of the Safe Sport Disciplinary Panel. Ms Kuah was awarded the Public Service Star (Bintang Bakti Masyarakat) in 2021 and the Public Service Medal (Silver) (Pingat Bakti Masyarakat) in 2008.

(6) **Mr Mark Lee Kean Phi**

Mr Lee is the CEO of Sing Lun Holdings and the Managing Director of Vac-Tech Engineering. He is the Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Executive Committee Member of the Singapore Business Federation, Council Member of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and Chairman of the

Advisory Board of the Asian Civilisations Museum. Mr Lee served as a Nominated Member of Parliament of the 14th Parliament from July 2023 to April 2025.

(7) **Dr Neo Kok Beng**

Dr Neo is the Founder and CEO of NEO Aeronautics. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Singapore Institute of Technology. Dr Neo holds a Doctorate in Innovation, is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Singapore and the Royal Aeronautical Society, and is an Honorary Fellow of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations. He was appointed as an Associate Faculty (Science, Technology & Globalisation) at Harvard Kennedy School and UNDP Visiting Professor of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship. He was awarded the SkillsFuture Fellowship in 2023.

(8) **Professor Kenneth Poon Kin Loong**

Professor Poon is the Dean, Research at the Office for Research and Centre Director of the Centre for Research in Child Development at the National Institute of Education in Nanyang Technological University. He has served on the Coordinating Committee of the International Society on Early Intervention and the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Executive Council. Professor Poon received the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) (Pingat Pentadbiran Awam) (Gangsa) in 2024.

(9) **Mr Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari**

Mr Tiwari is the General Secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Public Employees (AUPE). He is also a Central Committee Member of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), an Executive Council Member and Credit Sector Chairman of the Singapore National Co-operative Federation and a Member of the Management Committee of the Hindi Society Singapore. Mr Tiwari was awarded the Public Service Medal (Pingat Bakti Masyarakat) in 2024.

**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

1st Meeting

Monday, 6 October 2025

2.00pm

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Seah Kian Peng) (*in the Chair*)
Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis
Ms Indranee Rajah
Mr Zaqy Mohamad

ABSENT:

Mr Chan Chun Sing
Mr Desmond Lee
Dr Janil Puthucheary
Ms Sim Ann

- 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, Guide for the Submission of Names 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 Wednesday, 8 October 2025;
 - (b) that the closing date for the submission of names to the Committee be Thursday, 6 November 2025;
 - (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 Members of Parliament be issued; and
- (g) that a second press statement on the number of Proposal Forms received be issued on Friday, 7 November 2025.

Adjourned till 2.30 pm on
Monday, 17 November 2025

2nd Meeting

Monday, 17 November 2025
2.30 pm

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Seah Kian Peng) (*in the Chair*)
Mr Chan Chun Sing
Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis
Ms Indranee Rajah
Dr Janil Puthucheary
Mr Desmond Lee
Mr Zaqy Mohamad

ABSENT:

Ms Sim Ann

-
- 1 The Committee deliberated.
 - 2 The Committee considered –
 - (a) the 57 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.
 - 3 *Agreed* –
 - (a) that the Committee do interview certain persons proposed on Tuesday 25 November 2025 and Monday 1 December 2025.

Adjourned till 2.00 pm on
Tuesday 25 November 2025

3rd Meeting

Tuesday, 25 November 2025
2.00 pm

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Seah Kian Peng) (*in the Chair*)
Mr Chan Chun Sing
Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis
Mr Desmond Lee
Ms Indranee Rajah
Dr Janil Puthucheary

ABSENT:

Ms Sim Ann
Mr Zaqy Mohamad

-
- 1 The Committee deliberated.
 - 2 Agreed that the Committee do interview certain persons proposed.
 - 3 The Committee interviewed persons proposed.
 - 4 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Monday, 1 December 2025 at 10.00 am to continue interviewing certain persons proposed.

Adjourned till 10.00 am on
Monday 1 December 2025

4th Meeting

Monday, 1 December 2025
10.00 am

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Seah Kian Peng) (*in the Chair*)
Mr Chan Chun Sing
Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis
Ms Indranee Rajah
Dr Janil Puthucheary
Ms Sim Ann
Mr Zaqy Mohamad

ABSENT:

Mr Desmond Lee

- 1 The Committee deliberated.
- 2 The Committee interviewed persons proposed.
- 3 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Tuesday, 30 December 2025 at 9.30 am to finalise its recommendation to the President and its report to Parliament.

Adjourned till 9.30 am on
Tuesday, 30 December 2025

5th Meeting

Tuesday, 30 December 2025
9.30 am

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Seah Kian Peng) (*in the Chair*)
Mr Chan Chun Sing
Mr Chua Kheng Wee Louis
Mr Desmond Lee
Ms Indranee Rajah
Dr Janil Puthucheary
Ms Sim Ann

ABSENT:

Mr Zaqy Mohamad

- 1 The Committee deliberated.
- 2 Agreed that the following nine persons (in alphabetical order) be nominated to the President for appointment as nominated Members of Parliament:
 - (a) Mr Azhar Bin Othman
 - (b) Associate Professor Goh Toh Chuan, Kenneth
 - (c) Dr Haresh S/O Singaraju
 - (d) Associate Professor Terence Ho Wai Luen
 - (e) Ms Kuah Boon Theng SC
 - (f) Mr Mark Lee Kean Phi
 - (g) Dr Neo Kok Beng
 - (h) Professor Kenneth Poon Kin Loong
 - (i) Mr Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari

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*