

PRESS STATEMENT

NOMINATED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

1 The Special Select Committee had invited the general public and functional groups to submit names of persons for its consideration for appointment as Nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs) on 2 February 2016. Submissions closed on 23 February 2016 at 4.30 pm and a total of 41 proposal forms were received by closing time. The Committee considered all eligible candidates in its assessment of suitable candidates for appointment as NMPs.

2 At the conclusion of its deliberations, the Special Select Committee nominated the following nine persons to the President to fill the NMP vacancies:

- (1) Mr Azmoon Bin Ahmad
- (2) Ms Chia Yong Yong
- (3) Mr Thomas Chua Kee Seng
- (4) Mr Ganesh Rajaram
- (5) Mr Kok Heng Leun
- (6) Ms Kuik Shiao-Yin
- (7) Assistant Professor Mahdev Mohan
- (8) Associate Professor Randolph Tan Gee Kwang
- (9) Ms K Thanaletchimi

3 The Report of the Special Select Committee [Parl 2 of 2016] is attached. A list of the contact details of the persons nominated is also attached.

4 Speaker, the Chairman of the Committee said, “The Select Committee had deliberated very carefully on all the candidates, including the four ex-NMPs who are re-offering their services. We are satisfied that these 9 nominees have fulfilled the Constitutional requirement by distinguishing themselves through their contributions to society or in their respective fields. As Singapore navigates a much more challenging economic and social environment, we are confident that they will add colour to and elevate the quality of debate in Parliament.”

5 Ms Grace Fu, Leader of the House and a member of the Committee said “The Committee had considered all the qualified candidates including those who have sought a second term after serving only 12 months in the last Parliament. The task of selecting 9 out of the slate of high quality candidates was a difficult one. Besides their individual qualities, the candidates were selected bearing in mind the issues that we will discuss in this Parliament session – including economic transformation and skills training framework, development of media and art sectors, changes to the Constitution and building a caring and resilient society.”

Office of the Clerk of Parliament
17 March 2016

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The President will be presenting the Instruments of Appointment to the NMPs at the Istana on Tuesday, 22 March 2016. The NMPs will take their oath at the next sitting of Parliament on Thursday, 24 March 2016.

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THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

First Session

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

Parl. 2 of 2016

Presented to Parliament on

17 March 2016

COMPOSITION OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE

Mdm Speaker (Mdm Halimah Yacob) (Marsiling-Yew Tee) (*Chairman*)

Mr Chee Hong Tat (Bishan-Toa Payoh)
Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Communications and Information

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

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

Ms Sylvia Lim (Aljunied)

Mrs Josephine Teo (Bishan-Toa Payoh)
Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport

Mr Vikram Nair (Sembawang)

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

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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:	Mdm Halimah Yacob (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 the Lianhe Zaobao, Berita Harian, Tamil Murasu and The Straits Times on 2 February 2016. A press release was also issued to this effect.

4 The Committee agreed to make its press release, proposal and curriculum vitae forms and an FAQ on the nomination process available online on the Parliament website, in addition to the hardcopies available for collection from the Parliament Secretariat.

5 Each proposal form had to be signed by a proposer and a seconder and by not less than 4 other persons, all of whose names shall appear in a current register of electors. The person proposed was also required to submit a curriculum vitae form which includes 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 sealed in separate envelopes to the Committee. The closing date for the submission of names was 23 February 2016.

Formation of Functional Groups

6 The Committee decided that it would 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 continue to perform a relevant role in the nomination process by ensuring that there are 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 to contact the coordinators to propose their nominees were publicised by the Committee in a press release issued on 2 February 2016.

Consideration of Persons Proposed

8 By the closing date and time, the Committee received a total of 41 proposal forms. There were 17 names submitted by the functional groups and 24 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 February 2016, 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 eligible persons proposed. Most of the persons proposed were of a high quality and 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 individual.

Criteria for Assessing Persons Proposed

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 provides 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:

- understood the current issues and challenges facing Singapore; and
- were able to make effective contributions to the debates in Parliament.

14 The Committee also considered the views and comments of other Members of Parliament before making its nomination (section 2(3) of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore).

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 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. This may deter potential good applicants from participating in the nomination process in the future.

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 Azmoon Bin Ahmad**

Mr Azmoon is the Senior Vice-President of Desay SV Automotive (Global) and Managing Director of Desay SV Automotive Singapore Pte Ltd. He is currently a Member of the Committee on the Future Economy to review and develop new government strategies for Singapore's future economic development. He also served as Chairman of Association of Muslim

Professionals (AMP) Group from 2012 to 2015 and was on the Board of Directors from 2003 to 2015.

(2) **Ms Chia Yong Yong**

Ms Chia is a lawyer with Yusarn Audrey. She has been the President of the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) since 2008. She is currently a Member of the REACH Supervisory Panel, the Committee on the Future Economy, the Advocacy & Research Panel of the National Council of Social Services and Board Member of SG Enable. Ms Chia was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2013 and the President's Social Service Award in 2011. Ms Chia was a Nominated Member of Parliament of the 12th Parliament from August 2014 to August 2015.

(3) **Mr Thomas Chua Kee Seng**

Mr Chua is the Chairman and Managing Director of Teckwah Industrial Corporation Limited. He is also the President of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry which represents the interests of the local business community. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Chinese Development Assistance Council, is Vice-President of the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan and a Director of Business China. He was previously a Board Member of SPRING Singapore. Mr Chua was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2012. Mr Chua was a Nominated Member of Parliament of the 12th Parliament from August 2014 to August 2015.

(4) **Mr Ganesh Rajaram**

Mr Rajaram is currently an Executive Vice-President (Asia) of Fremantlemedia International. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Media Development Authority of Singapore. He has served as a Member in various public and industry advisory committees including several SG50 Committees, Public Service Broadcast Review Panel from 2010 to 2012, the Media Convergence Review Panel in 2012 and the Singapore InfoComm Media Masterplan 2025 Working Committee in 2013.

(5) **Mr Kok Heng Leun**

Mr Kok is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Drama Box Ltd, a local theatre company. Mr Kok is a Member of the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre Programme Committee and SG50 Culture and Community Sub-Committee. In recognition of his contribution to the local arts scene, he was awarded the Cultural Leader Fellowship by National Arts Council in 2014 and received the Young Artist Award from the National Arts Council of Singapore in 2000.

(6) **Ms Kuik Shiao-Yin**

Ms Kuik is the co-founder and Creative Director of The Thought Collective, a local group of enterprises. Her interest is in working with youths and she is a Board Member of *SCAPE Youth Talent and Leadership Development. She is also a Member of the Founder's Memorial Committee and OnePeople.sg Management Council. Ms Kuik was a Nominated Member of Parliament of the 12th Parliament from August 2014 to August 2015.

(7) **Assistant Professor Mahdev Mohan**

Asst Prof Mohan is an Assistant Professor of Law at Singapore Management University (SMU) and concurrently the Executive Director of the Singapore Society of International Law. He is also a founding member of the Singapore Branch of the International Law Association. He served as one of the International Civil Party Lawyers in the UN-backed Khmer Rouge Tribunal and was the Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Law at international fora. He researches, writes and advises on public international law, regulatory compliance, and international arbitration in Asia.

(8) **Associate Professor Randolph Tan Gee Kwang**

Assoc Prof Tan is currently a Deputy Director of the Centre for Applied Research at SIM University (UniSIM). He has published many academic articles and taught on the subjects of statistics, econometrics and applied economics. His current research interest is in the area of labour economics, with a focus on manpower issues in the Singapore economy. Assoc Prof Tan was conferred the "Teacher of the Specialisation Award" by the Nanyang

Business School in 1997. He was a Nominated Member of Parliament of the 12th Parliament from August 2014 to August 2015.

(9) **Ms K Thanaletchimi**

Ms Thanaletchimi is currently the President of Healthcare Services Employees' Union (HSEU). She was elected as President of the National University Hospital Employees' Union (NUHEU) at the age of 30 in 1996 and successfully led the merger of NUHEU and the Healthcare Corporation of Singapore Staff Union (HCSSU), which resulted in the successful formation of HSEU in 2006. Ms Thanaletchimi is also currently an elected member of the NTUC Central Committee and a Board Member of Tripartite Alliance for Fair and Progressive Employment Practices (TAFEP). She is a Member of the Board of Management of the People's Association and a Member of the SkillsFuture Council.

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

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

STEP 1

The general public is invited to submit names of persons to the Special Select Committee of Parliament for nomination by the Committee for appointment by the President as Nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs).

STEP 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 3

The Committee will meet to scrutinise all the applications and consider the views received from elected Members of Parliament. The Committee will then proceed with interviews. In deliberating on the persons to interview, the Committee is guided by the criteria contained in paragraph 13 of the Report.

STEP 4

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

STEP 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 guided by the criteria contained in paragraph 13 of the Report.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

1st Meeting

Monday, 1 February 2016
12.00 pm

PRESENT:

Mdm Speaker (Mdm Halimah Yacob) (*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 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 and Form for Curriculum Vitae of the person proposed to be used in the submission of names to the Committee.
 - 3 *Agreed* –
 - (a) that the invitation be inserted as an advertisement in one Chinese, one Malay, one Tamil and one English local newspaper on Tuesday, 2 February 2016;
 - (b) that the closing date for the submission of names to the Committee be Tuesday, 23 February 2016;
 - (c) that the Proposal Form and Form for Curriculum Vitae of the person proposed be used in the submission of names 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 Tuesday, 23 February 2016.

Adjourned till 9.30 am on
Thursday, 3 March 2016

2nd Meeting

Thursday, 3 March 2016
9.30 am

PRESENT:

Mdm Speaker (Mdm Halimah Yacob) (*in the Chair*)
Ms Grace Fu
Chee Hong Tat
Dr Koh Poh Koon
Ms Sylvia Lim
Vikram Nair

ABSENT:

Mrs Josephine Teo
Lawrence Wong

- 1 The Committee deliberated.
- 2 The Committee considered –
 - (a) the 41 proposals received from members of the public and the functional groups, namely, business and industry, the professions, the labour movement, social service organizations, civic and people sector, tertiary education institutions, and media, arts and sports organizations, 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 Wednesday, 9 March 2016 and Thursday, 10 March 2016.

Adjourned till 9.30 am on
Wednesday, 9 March 2016

3rd Meeting

Wednesday, 9 March 2016
9.30 am

PRESENT:

Mdm Speaker (Mdm Halimah Yacob) (*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 The Committee interviewed persons proposed.
 - 3 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Thursday, 10 March 2016 at 9.30 am to continue interviewing certain persons proposed.

Adjourned till 9.30 am on
Thursday, 10 March 2016

4th Meeting

Thursday, 10 March 2016
9.30 am

PRESENT:

Mdm Speaker (Mdm Halimah Yacob) (*in the Chair*)
Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Ms Sylvia Lim
Mrs Josephine Teo
Lawrence Wong

ABSENT:

Chee Hong Tat
Dr Koh Poh Koon
Vikram Nair

-
- 1 The Committee deliberated.
 - 2 The Committee interviewed persons proposed.
 - 3 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Monday, 14 March 2016 at 9.00 am to continue interviewing certain persons proposed.

Adjourned till 9.00 am on
Monday, 14 March 2016

5th Meeting

Monday, 14 March 2016
9.00 am

PRESENT:

Mdm Speaker (Mdm Halimah Yacob) (*in the Chair*)
Ms Grace Fu
Dr Koh Poh Koon
Ms Sylvia Lim
Vikram Nair
Lawrence Wong

ABSENT:

Chee Hong Tat
Mrs Josephine Teo

-
- 1 The Committee deliberated.
 - 2 The Committee interviewed person proposed.
 - 3 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Wednesday, 16 March 2016 at 10.00 am to finalise its recommendations to the President and its Report to Parliament.

Adjourned till 10.00 am on
Wednesday, 16 March 2016

6th Meeting

Wednesday, 16 March 2016
10.00 am

PRESENT:

Mdm Speaker (Mdm Halimah Yacob) (*in the Chair*)
Chee Hong Tat
Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Dr Koh Poh Koon
Ms Sylvia Lim
Vikram Nair
Lawrence Wong

ABSENT:

Mrs Josephine Teo

- 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 Azmoon Bin Ahmad
 - (2) Ms Chia Yong Yong
 - (3) Mr Thomas Chua Kee Seng
 - (4) Mr Ganesh Rajaram
 - (5) Mr Kok Heng Leun
 - (6) Ms Kuik Shiao-Yin
 - (7) Assistant Professor Mahdev Mohan
 - (8) Associate Professor Randolph Tan Gee Kwang
 - (9) Ms K Thanaletchimi

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.
- 5 Resolved, "That this report be the report of the Committee to Parliament."
- 6 Agreed that the Chairman do present the Report to Parliament when copies are available for distribution to Members of Parliament.

Adjourned sine die
