

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

First Session

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

Parl. 1 of 2007

Presented to Parliament:

12 January 2007

COMPOSITION OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker (Mr Abdullah Tarmugi) (East Coast) (*Chairman*)

Mdm Halimah Yacob (Jurong)

Mrs Lim Hwee Hua (Aljunied)
Minister of State, Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Transport

Mr Low Thia Khiang (Hougang)

RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew (Tanjong Pagar)
Minister of State, Ministry of Education

Mr Mah Bow Tan (Tampines)
Minister for National Development & Deputy Leader of the House

Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng (Jalan Besar)

Mr Sin Boon Ann (Tampines)

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**REPORT OF 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 14 November 2006, Parliament resolved in accordance with the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore that there shall be nominated Members of Parliament during the term of the Eleventh Parliament.

2 The Members of the Special Select Committee were nominated by the Committee of Selection on 15 November 2006. With the Speaker as ex-officio Chairman, the Committee comprised the following:

Chairman: Mr Abdullah Tarmugi (Speaker)

Members: Mdm Halimah Yacob
Mrs Lim Hwee Hua
Mr Low Thia Kiang
RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew
Mr Mah Bow Tan
Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng
Mr Sin Boon Ann

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

3 Pursuant to sections 2(1) and 2(2) of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, the Special Select Committee decided that an advertisement inviting the general public to submit names of persons for consideration by the Committee be inserted in the *Lianhe Zaobao*, *Berita Harian*, *Tamil Murasu* and *The Straits Times* on 16 November 2006. Publicity to the invitation was also given in a press release on 15 November 2006.

4 Submission of names was required to be made on forms obtainable at the office of the Clerk of Parliament. Each form had to be signed by a proposer and a seconder and by not less than four other persons, all of whose names shall appear in a current register of electors. The person to be proposed was also required to complete a *curriculum vitae* form in which, *inter alia*, he was required to write 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 14 December 2006.

Formation of Functional Groups

5 The Committee decided that it would continue the practice of inviting the six functional groups representing organisations from business and industry, social and community services, media, arts and sports, the professions, labour movement, and tertiary education institutions to submit names of suitable candidates for the Special Select Committee to consider.

6 The names of the coordinators appointed by Mr 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 15 November 2006.

Consideration of Persons Proposed

7 The Committee received a total of 48 proposal forms, including those from the functional groups, of which six did not satisfy the eligibility criteria.

8 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”.

9 On the advice of the Committee, the Speaker wrote to all the elected Members of Parliament on 15 December 2006, informing them of the names of the persons proposed for consideration as nominated Members of Parliament and asking the Members of Parliament if they had any comments on these persons and if they knew of any reason why any of them should not be considered for appointment as nominated Members of Parliament.

10 The Committee assessed the suitability of the persons proposed, in accordance with the criteria set out in section 3(2) of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution.

Nominations of the Committee

11 Under the Constitution, not more than nine nominated Members of Parliament can be appointed.

12 The Committee has therefore nominated the following nine persons to the President for appointment as nominated Members of Parliament:

- (1) Mr Gautam Banerjee
 - (2) Ms Cham Hui Fong
 - (3) Mr Edwin Khew Teck Fook
 - (4) Dr Loo Choon Yong
 - (5) Dr Kalyani K Mehta
 - (6) Ms Eunice Elizabeth Olsen
 - (7) Mrs Jessie Phua
 - (8) Mr Siew Kum Hong
 - (9) Dr Thio Li-Ann
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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

1st Meeting

Wednesday, 15 November 2006

11.30 am

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Abdullah Tarmugi) (*in the Chair*)
Mdm Halimah Yacob
Mrs Lim Hwee Hua
Mr Low Thia Kiang
RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew
Mr Mah Bow Tan
Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng

ABSENT:

Mr Sin Boon 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 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 Thursday, 16 November 2006;
- (b) that the closing date for the submission of names to the Committee be Thursday, 14 December 2006;
- (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; and
- (e) that the Chairman invites coordinators and representatives of the six functional groups and their respective organisations for a tea session to inform them of the procedure in submitting nominations to the Committee.

Adjourned till 2.30 pm on
Tuesday, 26 December 2006.

2nd Meeting

Tuesday, 26 December 2006

2.30 pm

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Abdullah Tarmugi) (*in the Chair*)
Mdm Halimah Yacob
Mrs Lim Hwee Hua
Mr Low Thia Kiang
RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew
Mr Mah Bow Tan
Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng
Mr Sin Boon Ann

- 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, professions, labour movement, tertiary education institutions, social and community service organisations, 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 that the Committee do interview certain persons proposed on Monday, 8 January 2007.

Adjourned till 8.30am on
Monday, 8 January 2007.

3rd Meeting

Monday, 8 January 2007

8.30 am

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Abdullah Tarmugi) (*in the Chair*)
Mdm Halimah Yacob
Mrs Lim Hwee Hua
Mr Low Thia Kiang
RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew
Mr Mah Bow Tan
Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng
Mr Sin Boon Ann

- 1 The Committee deliberated.
- 2 The Committee interviewed persons proposed.
- 3 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Tuesday, 9 January 2007 at 2.30pm to continue interviewing certain persons proposed.

Adjourned till 2.30pm on
Tuesday, 9 January 2007.

4th Meeting

Tuesday, 9 January 2007

2.30 pm

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Abdullah Tarmugi) (*in the Chair*)
Mdm Halimah Yacob
Mrs Lim Hwee Hua
Mr Low Thia Kiang
RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew
Mr Mah Bow Tan
Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng
Mr Sin Boon Ann

- 1 The Committee further interviewed persons proposed.
- 2 Agreed that the Committee do meet again on Friday, 12 January 2007 at 8.30am to conclude its interview and finalise its recommendations to the President and its report to Parliament.

Adjourned till 8.30am on
Friday, 12 January 2007.

5th Meeting

Friday, 12 January 2007

8.30 am

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (Mr Abdullah Tarmugi) (*in the Chair*)
Mdm Halimah Yacob
Mrs Lim Hwee Hua
Mr Low Thia Kiang
RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew
Mr Mah Bow Tan
Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng
Mr Sin Boon Ann

- 1 The Committee interviewed a person proposed.
- 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 Gautam Banerjee
 - (2) Ms Cham Hui Fong
 - (3) Mr Edwin Khew Teck Fook
 - (4) Dr Loo Choon Yong
 - (5) Dr Kalyani K Mehta
 - (6) Ms Eunice Elizabeth Olsen
 - (7) Mrs Jessie Phua
 - (8) Mr Siew Kum Hong
 - (9) Dr Thio Li-Ann

Report

- 4 Draft report, brought up by the Chairman, read the first time.
- 5 Resolved, "That the Chairman's report be read a second time paragraph by paragraph."
- Paragraphs 1 to 12 inclusive read and agreed to.
- 6 Resolved, "That this report be the report of the Committee to Parliament."
- 7 Agreed that the Chairman do present the Report to Parliament when copies are available for distribution to Members of Parliament.

Adjourned sine die
