

S'pore not prepared to allow dual citizenship: DPM Teo

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File photo: Pedestrians cross the street along the Orchard Road shopping area in Singapore. (AFP Photo/Roslan Rahman)

SINGAPORE: Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean said Singapore is not prepared to allow dual citizenship, as it would not strengthen the nation.

He said foreigners are granted Singapore citizenship only if they are committed to making Singapore their home in the long-term.

As such, they should be prepared to give up their foreign nationality.

Nominated MP Assistant Professor Eugene Tan had asked in Parliament if the country should keep an open mind with regards to dual citizenship, given the increase in international marriages.

Mr Teo said: "As Singaporeans, we count on one another to be loyal and if need be, to defend Singapore and fellow Singaporeans in our hour of need. We work together to build a brighter future for Singapore and Singaporeans. Singapore is a small and young nation. It is all the more important that we are clear that our citizens have a long-term commitment to building a future together here. Allowing Singaporeans to retain or acquire a second citizenship is unlikely to enhance that commitment but could dilute it."

- CNA/xq