

Open process to select NMPs may not be helpful: Ng Eng Hen

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Leader of the House, Dr Ng Eng Hen, said a more open process to select Nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs) could deter good applicants from coming forward.



File photo: The Parliament House in Singapore. (AFP/File - Roslan Rahman)

SINGAPORE: Leader of the House, Dr Ng Eng Hen, said a more open process to select Nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs) could deter good applicants from coming forward.

Speaking in Parliament on Monday, Dr Ng said an open process would cause considerable discomfort to potential candidates, especially those who are not appointed. He added that not many would want to subject themselves to such public scrutiny.

Dr Ng was responding to Nominated MP Eugene Tan, who asked if those seeking appointment as NMPs could be made public before, or after the appointment process.

Associate Professor Tan asked: "If someone is prepared to serve, there shouldn't be concern about whether he or she will or will not get appointed. Essentially, my concern is whether we can add transparency to the process."

Dr Ng replied: "The member says those who want to put themselves up for public service shouldn't feel embarrassed or discomfort, I presume he's speaking for himself and for others he wishes to be.

"The truth is there may be others who do. It's a balance and I think we will keep to this system because it has worked well and certainly I think the members who have been selected into this house as NMPs have done credit to the House."