

Mr Laurence Wee



Ms Audrey Wong



Mr Calvin Cheng



Ms Joscelin Yeo



Associate Professor Paulin Tay Straughan



NMPs given letters of appointment

They will take oath of allegiance in the House on Monday

BY ZAKIR HUSSAIN
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EIGHT Nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs) received their letters of appointment from President S R Nathan yesterday.

They were each handed a scroll at a solemn Istana ceremony which was witnessed by their families.

The ninth NMP, businessman Teo Siong Seng, 54, was absent as he is on a business mission in Guangdong, China.

But Mr Teo, president of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told The Straits Times he would be back in time for Monday's Parliament sitting.

All nine are newcomers to Parliament and will take their

oaths of allegiance in the House on Monday. They will serve a 2½-year term.

They include former national swimmer Joscelin Yeo, 30, an executive at New Creation Church's youth ministry, Mr Calvin Cheng, 33, a fashion and media entrepreneur, and Ms Audrey Wong, 41, artistic co-director of arts centre The Substation.

Also in the new batch are Mr Viswa Sadasivan, 49, vice-president of the Singapore Indian Development Association and boss of a media consultancy, Mr Terry Lee, 57, a veteran unionist, Associate Professor Paulin Tay Straughan, 46, vice-dean of National University of Singapore's Arts and Social Science faculty, Mr Laurence Wee, 63, executive director of Presbyterian Community Services, and Mrs Mildred Tan-Sim Beng Mei, 50, managing director at Ernst & Young, a global audit and business advisory firm.

The incoming group was nominated by a committee of MPs. They gave the list to Presi-

dent Nathan last week, after whittling it down from 43 eligible candidates.

The new NMPs will attend a briefing on Parliamentary procedures today, which also marks the end of term for the outgoing nine NMPs.

But the newcomers are not likely to speak at next week's sitting, as they are required to inform the House of any questions they want to raise seven days ahead of a sitting.

However, they can ask follow-up or supplementary questions on issues being debated.

Mr Teo, who will return home on Sunday, said he was excited "but also a bit anxious" about being in the chamber for the first time.

Mr Wee said the solemnity of yesterday's ceremony highlighted the seriousness of his responsibilities as an NMP.

"We have to chip in with creative ideas to complement what is being done, to do our bit to improve people's quality of life," he said.

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Mrs Mildred Tan-Sim Beng Mei



Mr Viswa Sadasivan



Mr Terry Lee



Mr Teo Siong Seng

