

From: stngiam  
Subject: Re: Separation of Party and State  
Date: 10 November 2020 at 10:33:02 PM SGT  
To: Alex\_YAM@pa.gov.sg, "tan\_yi\_ru@pa.gov.sg" <tan\_yi\_ru@pa.gov.sg>

Dear Mr Yam,

Perhaps you may have been busy and missed my earlier email to you last week. I would appreciate it if you could clarify

1. Whether you are still holding the position of Executive Director of the PAP ?
2. Was the position of Executive Director of the PAP a paid position prior to your appointment as Mayor ?

Thank you

Ngiam Shih Tung

On Mon, 2 Nov 2020 at 12:07 AM, stngiam wrote:

Dear Mr Yam,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Mayor of North West District. I am sure you will serve the residents of North West District well in this position. Unfortunately, I have to write to you to raise my concerns regarding your apparent concurrent appointments as Mayor and Executive Director of the People's Action Party.

As of today, your Facebook profile still shows that you are Executive Director of the PAP, and the Party has not announced the appointment of a new Executive Director (ED). As you do not list any other paid positions on your CV between 2013 and 2020, I infer that the the position of Executive Director was originally a full-time paid position. As the Code of Conduct for Ministers prohibits political appointment holders from holding outside employment, however, I would assume that the Party no longer pays your salary.

Unfortunately, that means that the State is effectively subsidising the running costs of the PAP by paying your salary if you are still performing the duties of ED, bearing in mind that the ED's salary was previously fully paid for by the Party. I have no doubts as to your personal integrity but the issue here is of maintaining the separation of Party and State. If the salary of the Executive Director was previously paid for out of PAP funds but is now paid for by the taxpayer, that would amount to a subsidy of the PAP, and could not withstand public scrutiny.

Unfortunately, relatively little is publicly known as to the internal workings of the PAP and my concerns may be based on inferences which are actually incorrect. I hope that you could address the questions below. If the answer to at least one of them is "No", then my concerns are unnecessary and the issue is merely

one of poor public communications. If one or both of the answers are "Yes", however, then the Party would need to take immediate steps to address the perception that public funds are being used to subsidise the operations of the PAP.

1. Are you still holding the position of Executive Director of the PAP ?
2. Was the position of Executive Director a paid position prior to your appointment as Mayor ?

I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Ngiam Shih Tung