

New faces on Young PAP committee

■ BY ZAKIR HUSSAIN

THE youth wing of the ruling People's Action Party has picked a pair of tax consultants to serve as organising secretary and deputy organising secretary of its executive committee.

Ms Lim Kexin and Mr Abner Koh, both 28, were elected to the respective posts by their peers late last month, the Young PAP (YP) announced yesterday.

YP chairman Teo Ser Luck told The Straits Times that the election of Ms Lim and Mr Koh is part of an ongoing effort to renew the YP's leadership and maintain the ruling party's links with young Singaporeans and first-time voters.

"Being in their late 20s, they can bring with them views and perspectives of people from their age group," he said.

The post of organising secretary was created in 2008 to give non-MP activists more leadership opportunities within the PAP's youth wing and groom them to take on bigger roles.

Ms Lim is the second person to hold the post. Her job is to coordinate YP activities, and be the link between the executive committee and the youth wing's 84 branches islandwide.

She succeeds Dr Tan Wu Meng, 35, a registrar at the National Cancer Centre, who will remain active in the YP.



Ms Lim Kexin is now organising secretary of the Young PAP's executive committee, and Mr Abner Koh is the deputy. Both are aged 28, and are tax consultants.

Said Dr Tan of the new appointments: "Theirs is a vital role, for the General Election will fall within their tenure."

Ms Lim wants to make sure the YP stays close to the ground with regard to youth, and enhances its members' sense of belonging.

"That the General Election is near gives us a sense of urgency, but we are always on the lookout for how to improve the YP and Singapore," she said.

Mr Koh takes over as deputy from Ms Chan Hui Yuh, 34, a marketing director, who will also remain active in the party.

Ms Lim also chairs the YP's Aljunied region and Mr Koh, the Sembawang region.

They were elected to a two-year term by their fellow chairmen heading the YP's 14 regions, which are modelled on the 14 group representation constituencies. These regional chairmen were themselves elected by delegates from the YP's 84 branches last November.

Ms Lim joined the party in 2006. She is also assistant secretary of the Serangoon Citizens Consultative Committee (CCC) and a National Youth Council member.

Mr Koh joined the party in 2003. He is a member of the Sembawang CCC, on top of being involved in Viriya Community Services, a voluntary welfare organisation.

"I hope to make a difference in enhancing the image of the YP in the eyes of the public, as well as younger Singaporeans and first-time voters," he said.

The full line-up of the YP's new executive committee, which typically has 30 members, is still being finalised.