Nine members leave Reform Party

Five are from its top committee; they cite differences of opinion

By KOR KIAN Beng

The opposition Reform Party (RP) has been rocked by the mass resignation of at least nine members, including five in its top decision-making committee and a couple regarded as potential candidates for the upcoming general election.

The central executive committee (CEC) members who quit are: treasurer James Teo, 51; organising secretary Jeisilan Sivdhgam, 41; youth wing chief Justin Ong, 25; and CEC members Jeisilan Sivdhgam, 41, and Mr Justin Ong, 25. Others who quit include (from left) Mr James Teo, 51; Ms Jeisilan Sivdhgam, 41, and Mr Justin Ong, 25.

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Others who quit include (from left) Mr James Teo, 51; Ms Jeisilan Sivdhgam, 41, and Mr Justin Ong, 25. Sources said the CEC members and Ms Poo quit last Friday, followed by Ms De Silva and Mr Tan this week.

Some of those who left The Straits Times that the key reason for their departure was that they found it difficult to work with Reform Party secretary-generalKenneth Jeyaretnam, 51. Ms Poo, who spoke on behalf of the group, said: "We left because we had differences of opinion. That is common in any organisation."

"We tried to work things out initially but it reached a point where no further compromises could be made. We decided it was time to part company," Ms. Hazel Poo, 41, speaking on the group's behalf. She was a potential election candidate for the Reform Party.

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