

NMP-designate quits Young PAP

NOMINATED Member of Parliament-designate Calvin Cheng has quit the Young PAP.

The morning after he told TODAY of his intentions, Mr Cheng, 34, sent an email at 9.42am to Mr Lau Ping Sum, executive director of the People's Action Party, who accepted his resignation.

"I am concerned that membership of the party during my term will have an impact on my ability to discharge my duties as an NMP, especially where public perception is concerned," Mr Cheng wrote.

Observers had been divided on whether his young wing membership — albeit an

inactive one — went against the non-partisan spirit of the NMP scheme.

Law professor Eugene Tan was one of those who felt NMPs must be independent in form and substance. "I see no reason why an NMP applicant should not disavow all political affiliations when he puts in his papers," said the Singapore Management University don, who pointed out that the late Mr Ong Teng Cheong had resigned from the PAP when he contested in the presidential election in 1993. ESTHER NG