



Profit-making acts of NGOs opposed to social service delivery aims: WB

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A World Bank (WB) draft report prepared for the upcoming Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) meeting said NGO involvement in profit-making commercial activities could easily interfere with their incentives for giving priority to delivering social services.

The report suggested a sound legal framework to define NGO status vis-a-vis advocacy groups, commercial enterprises, the financial sector and the government.

It also suggested for providing an internal accountability framework that is based on trans-

parency and a system of checks and balances, both for their finance and performance.

The WB report said: "It needs to address the potential governance issues relating to NGOs as they place themselves between the state and its citizens."

The report, which is supposed to be placed before the BDF meeting beginning May 8 next, however, lauded many of the country's NGOs and community-based organisations (CBOs) as those have proven to be world leaders in innovative ideas and operational methods.

the best talent.

Goh said the new guidelines on MPs' involvement in business would help improve transparency and draw a clear line between political duties and private interests.

"The MP should also consider the possible impact that the directorship may have on his political life," the guidelines said.

There are suggestions that the PAP should also place limits on the number of directorships an MP can hold.

A survey by the Singapore Straits Times newspaper found that a large number of PAP MPs had been approached for board directorships and demand was rising due to an increased number of initial public offerings.

The guidelines said that, MPs should not solicit for directorships as they may appear to be using their political position for personal

gain. But the guidelines appeared to fail to address the close involvement of government MPs and other officials in state-owned companies, or government-linked companies (GLCs) as they are known in Singapore.

Current or former PAP MPs have often been appointed as executives or directors of GLCs, while GLCs have also served as recruitment grounds for the PAP. Senior government officials and military commanders have also secured posts in the GLCs after retirement.

Goh, for example, was managing director of Neptune Orient Lines, the state-owned shipping line, before he entered politics, while David Lim, a former government minister, was recently named as NOL chief executive. This has led critics to suggest that the government is reluctant to privatise GLCs because it could hurt the employment and ownership interests of people closely connected to it.