On the fast track to higher office

What are the revealing qualities that distinguish political high fliers?

By LI XUEQING

IN 2001, there were the much-vaulted Super Seven, the seven new MPs who were on the fast track to junior ministerial positions after being voted into Parliament.

But back in 1983, there were already the Talented Three. One of them is Singapore’s Prime Minister today. Barely a week after their entry was won in December 1983, political dynasty Lim Hsiang Liong’s sons, Chee Soon Tong and Wong Fong Fong, were made ministers of state, with two portfolios each, to no less Than first deputy prime minister-designate Goh Chok Tong declared. “We need to stretch the new ministers of state. If they make it, then they will share the load with Cabinet ministers.”

Three of the four new candidates who have had to resign from their top civil service jobs to enter politics are still in the Cabinet. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong indicated that Mr Leong would become a political secretary.

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