

Justin Huang spurns Tsai nomination

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The entrance to the Control Yuan is pictured in Taipei on Wednesday.

Photo: Hsieh Chun-lin, Taipei Times

Former Taitung County commissioner Justin Huang (黃錫山) of the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) yesterday declined a nomination from President Tsai Ing-wen (蔡英文) to serve as Control Yuan vice president.

The announcement came one day after news of the planned appointment sparked criticism across the political spectrum.

Huang said in a video on Facebook that he cared about his reputation “far more than any position” and urged people who were “using [him] as a shield to shift the focus” to stop what they were doing.

The KMT said in a statement that it welcomed Huang’s announcement.

The party said that comments by Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) members over the past two days showed that Tsai only wanted to use Huang to help turn the focus away from former Presidential Office secretary-general Chen Chu (陳楚), instead of “borrowing” talent from the KMT.

Chen, who is expected to be nominated as Control Yuan president, has been involved in three impeachments and more than 50 cases of corrective measures by the Control Yuan, the KMT said.

If Tsai, who doubles as DPP chairperson, believes Huang is suitable for the position, she should defend the nomination, instead of allowing members of her party to attack Huang, the KMT said.

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If the DPP needs to “borrow” KMT members to serve in the government, it should discuss the matter with the party, instead of directly approaching its members, it said.

As Huang has withdrawn from the nomination, the KMT would not take disciplinary action against him, the party added.

Presidential Office spokesman Xavier Chang (張國良) said Tsai respected Huang’s decision, adding that the KMT’s talk of a “party-to-party” approach to determine a nominee was not in line with the Constitution.

Tsai’s planned nomination of Huang also drew criticism from the DPP.

The Presidential Office did not communicate with DPP members about Huang’s planned nomination, said a party member, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

DPP Legislator Mark Ho (何志偉) said that the nominee for Control Yuan vice president should be first discussed with DPP lawmakers.

A legislative provisional session that was expected to be held after the Dragon Boat Festival holiday could be affected following the Presidential Office’s cancelation on Friday of a news conference at which the nominations for Control Yuan members were to be announced, sources said.

The DPP legislative caucus had planned on calling an extraordinary session as early as June 29 to review a number of topics, including the Control Yuan nominations, the sources said.

DPP caucus secretary-general Chung Chia-pin (鄭智平) said that if lawmakers are informed about the nominations before the holiday, an extraordinary session could be held following the

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holiday.

A session could still be held even if the nominations are announced after the holiday, but they would not be included in the agenda, he said, adding that lawmakers would handle other cases first.

A third option is to wait until the nominations are announced to hold the session, he added.

Additional reporting by CNA

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