

**'Candidates should run for existing office, not the one they wish for'**  
**The former deputy prime minister said the Presidential Election was not an appropriate avenue to imagine new roles for the President**

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The Presidential Election is not the correct forum for people to discuss what new roles the President should play, presidential hopeful Dr Tony Tan said today.

"Candidates should run for the office that exists, not the one they wish to have," Dr Tan said in a blog entry posted on his campaign website today.

He made the comments after attending the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) Forum on the Elected Presidency last Friday.

Dr Tan also said that the President "is not, and should not be" a separate power centre. However, he "can have influence".

He also said that the President can, and should, address the concerns of Singaporeans and take them into account when exercising his or her powers.

"These concerns can also be raised formally or informally through appropriate channels.

"The choice of channels to pursue depends on the individual situation," he said.

Dr Tan also said that the President should know Singaporeans well and reflect their concerns effectively in both national and international affairs.

"One can, of course, imagine very different roles for the President," he said.

However, this would require a constitutional amendment which the Presidential Election should not be used as an avenue for, he added.