

First Citizen to Address Senate?

~~DISCUSSION~~ Debate in the Senate as been fierce about the direction that the Government should take and who should form the next Administration. Senator Ozkok has ruled himself out as a permanent replacement for Lee Zhang saying that he had planned for some time to move on from Government at the next election. It is rumoured that he will be offered a senior post, possibly Chair, in the Interstellar Elections Commission.

Imperial Party Divided

[Senator Lee Zhang](#)'s party remain divided on who should succeed him and this has provoked a general debate on other party candidates, as well as some independents, for First Minister. After nearly forty days of frantic behind the scenes activity it looks like the First Citizen is about to step in to end the deadlock. On being questioned about this the First Citizen's spokeswoman said 'The First Citizen is fully aware of the position and will play his constitutional role'. Rathbone has not addressed the Senate since the last State opening and the last time a First Citizen sat in the chamber outside such an event was in his Father's early days, some 45 years ago.

Front Runners

The state of play in the Senate has produced a short list of four potential candidates for First Minister.

1. [Lord Bailey](#);
2. [Senator Bernard Malvolio](#);
3. [Sir Humphrey Fulbright](#);
4. [Kvashnin](#).

Notable is the fact that all the front runners are ex-IEN or strongly supportive of the Navy lobby, bar [Senator Bernard Malvolio](#) who comes from a Corporate background.

The Power-Broker

The apparent peacebroker in all this appears to be [Senator Danso Tupac Ashanti, LoH](#) who has been in regular talks with all four as well as Senator [Senator Hilmi Ozkok](#) and, more significantly, Senator Rathbone, the First Citizen's younger son. Senator Ashanti is a former First Space Lord and an independent Senator. He is reported to be on good terms with the First Citizen having commanded the Imperial Guard.

[Senate](#), [T70](#), [1SL](#), [DTA](#), [Rathbone](#), [FirstCitizen](#), [opinion](#)

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