

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The Elections Department (ELD) celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 29 December 2017 at the Fullerton Building. This is where ELD was first established as the Elections Office in 1947.

2 The event was attended by DPM Teo Chee Hean and Minister Chan Chun Sing. Returning Officers past and present, election officials and officers from various public agencies that work with ELD to conduct elections were also present to commemorate the occasion.

3 In his speech, DPM Teo commended ELD and public officers for their efforts in administering a fair, reliable and trusted election system. In total, ELD has conducted 69 elections over the past 70 years. This comprises 21 elections held before Singapore gained independence, and 48 elections held after Singapore became independent. DPM said that Singaporeans trust the system and take their civic responsibility to vote seriously, with voter turnout at Presidential and General Elections above 94% on average.

4 DPM Teo also highlighted improvements made to the election process over the years, especially those that make it more convenient for voters. These included providing for overseas voting, releasing sample counts before official results on Counting Night and introducing eServices to better serve voters and candidates. For example, voters can check their particulars in the registers of electors online and apply to register themselves as overseas voters. Election candidates are also able to make various returns online. Going forward, ELD will implement eRegistration at polling stations; election officials will scan the NRIC of voters to register them, so as to shorten their waiting time before they cast their votes.

5 The exhibits and videos on ELD's milestones can be viewed at ELD's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary webpage at [http://www.eld.gov.sg/70th\\_anniversary.html](http://www.eld.gov.sg/70th_anniversary.html).

**ISSUED BY  
ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

**29 December 2017**