

PROCEDURE FOR DELIVERY OF THANK-YOU SPEECHES BY CANDIDATES AT NOMINATION CENTRES

(I) Procedure for delivery of thank-you speeches

1. Candidates (or groups of candidates in the case of Group Representation Constituencies (GRCs)) who have successfully filed their Nomination papers are allowed to make thank-you speeches at the designated Announcement Area outside the Nomination Place. All speeches must be delivered using the public address system provided by the Returning Officer (RO).
2. Each candidate (or group of candidates) may be accompanied by two other persons from amongst his/her subscribers¹ for the delivery of their speech. Each candidate for a Single Member Constituency (SMC) is allowed one minute to make his/her speech. Each group of candidates for a GRC is allowed three minutes to make their speeches.
3. For GRCs, there is no limit to the number of candidates from each group delivering speeches, as long as the group keeps to the three-minute time limit. The three-minute time period starts as soon as the first candidate in the group starts speaking, and includes the time taken for handover to other members in the group. Alternatively, the group of candidates may appoint one member to speak on behalf of the group.
4. Ten seconds before the allotted time given for speeches ends (i.e. at the 50 second mark for SMCs and two minute and 50 second mark for GRCs), two bell chimes will be sounded. Shortly after this, at the end of the allotted time given for speeches, the public address system will be faded off.
5. The sequence of speeches to be made by candidates (or groups of candidates) at each Nomination Centre is as follows:
 - (a) Candidates contesting in SMCs before those contesting in GRCs;
 - (b) Within SMC and GRC groupings, in alphabetical order of the names of electoral divisions;
 - (c) Within each electoral division, in alphabetical order of the surname of the candidates for SMCs (or first candidates in the case of GRCs); and
 - (d) Candidates contesting as independent candidates will deliver their speeches after candidates from political parties. In the event that there is more than one independent candidate (or group of independent candidates), the sequence for the delivery of speeches will be in alphabetical order of the surname of the candidates for SMCs (or first candidates in the case of GRCs).
6. The authority to allow or deny candidates and groups of candidates to make thank-you speeches at Nomination Centres is vested with the Group Assistant Returning Officer (GARO). If an unauthorised person speaks or if a candidate speaks without the permission of the GARO, the GARO has the authority to ask the person to leave the Nomination Centre and the Police can take necessary action to ensure compliance.

(II) For candidates (or groups of candidates) of uncontested electoral divisions

1. After 12 noon, the GARO will make an announcement within the Nomination Place, to invite the candidate (or group of candidates) of each uncontested electoral division and two other persons from amongst his/her subscribers to join him/her for the announcement of results at the Announcement Area.
2. At the Announcement Area, the GARO will announce the candidate (or group of candidates) elected for the uncontested electoral division before inviting the elected candidate (or group of candidates) to deliver his/her thank-you speech.
3. The GARO will adhere to the sequence of speeches as described in *Section (I) Paragraphs 5a and 5b.*
4. Each candidate (or group of candidates) shall comply with the time limit allotted as prescribed in *Section (I) Paragraph 2.*

¹ Subscribers refer to a proposer, a seconder and at least four but not more than eight assentors.

(III) For candidates (or groups of candidates) of contested electoral divisions

1. After 12.30 pm (i.e. end of period for objections to Nomination papers), the GARO will make an announcement within the Nomination Place, requesting each candidate (or group of candidates) or a representative to collect the necessary documents for contested elections. The candidate (or one candidate in the case of GRCs) or representative shall sign-off the *Checklist for Candidate Pack* form to acknowledge receipt of the documents.
2. Thereafter, the GARO will lead the candidates (or groups of candidates) of each contested electoral division and their subscribers to the Announcement Area to announce the nomination outcomes for each contested electoral division. Following each announcement, the GARO will then invite the candidates (or groups of candidates) of that electoral division to deliver their speeches, before proceeding to announce the next contested electoral division.
3. The GARO will adhere to the sequence of speeches as described in *Section (I) Paragraph 5*.
4. Each candidate (or group of candidates) shall comply with the time limit allotted as prescribed in *Section (I) Paragraph 2*.

(IV) General advisory

1. Please note that the making of any other type of speech within or around the Nomination Centre will require a Police permit.
2. Supporters of candidates may only display or exhibit flags, banners and placards containing the candidate's (or group of candidates') image and/or allotted symbol at the Nomination Centre after the close of nomination proceedings, when the candidate (or group of candidates) delivers his/her speech.

RETURNING OFFICER