

8 July 2019

Written Reply to Parliamentary Question on Initiatives for Next General Election

Question:

Mr Png Eng Huat: To ask the Prime Minister whether he can provide an update on the new initiatives planned for the next general election, in particular (i) the e-registration of voters (ii) the new prototype booth design and (iii) any other changes made to the conduct of the voting process on Polling Day.

Written reply by Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, for the Prime Minister:

Mr Png asked for an update on the new initiatives for the next general election.

2 As announced previously, ELD intends to implement e-registration of voters to make the process more efficient. This will be ready for the next general election.

3 For the polling booths, ELD worked with students from the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), and a prototype booth using low-cost environmental-friendly recyclable material appears promising. ELD is in the process of finalising the design with SIT and will pilot these booths at the next election, if ready. ELD has also designed a portable booth so that voters on wheelchairs can mark their ballot papers by placing such booths on their lap.

4 ELD will also introduce the use of self-inking pens, which imprint an 'X', to allow voters to mark their choice clearly and easily without ambiguity. Such self-inking pens require minimum pressure to mark the ballot papers, making it easy for everyone, including the elderly to use. During vote counting, the use of this self-inking pen will reduce the need for Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) to adjudicate ballot papers, since the voters' choice are clearly marked.

5 ELD will arrange to show these new initiatives to representatives of political parties and allow them to try and provide feedback on the new equipment later this year. ELD will subsequently conduct roadshows to familiarise voters with the new equipment.