

PRESS RELEASE

INTERNET CAMPAIGNING RULES

Political parties, candidates standing for election and their election agents, and non-party political websites required to be registered with SBA under the SBA (Class Licence) Notification, are to observe the Internet campaigning rules in accordance with the Parliamentary Elections (Amendment No. 2) Act 2001 and Parliamentary Elections (Election Advertising) Regulations 2001. The Regulations which came into effect on 17 October 2001 will apply during the election period, which is from the day the writ is issued to the close of all polling stations on polling day.

Political Party Sites

2 Party political websites may carry the following, subject to rules set out in the Regulations:

- a) Photographs or drawings, illustrations which advertise a political party or candidate.
- b) Historical or biographical information about a political party or candidate.
- c) Party manifesto.
- d) Political party newsletter.
- e) Advertisements to recruit volunteers, political party supporters or newsletter subscribers.
- f) Announcements of events such as rallies, walkabouts.
- g) Moderated chats and discussion forums.
- h) Hyperlinks.

3 Any other Internet campaigning materials outside the regulations would be restricted. These include polls, transaction services, announcements or notices referring to the sale of political merchandise and other fund-raising activities.

4 All election advertisements on the Internet should be accompanied with the display of relevant particulars, i.e.

- (i) the name and address (not being a post-office box) of the publisher of the advertisement,

- (ii) the name and address (not being a post-office box) of the person for whom or at whose direction it is published.

Where the publisher or person referred to above is an unincorporated association or society such as a political party, it would be adequate just to bear the name and address of the unincorporated association or society.

Non-party Political Sites Registered with SBA

5 Non-party political sites registered with SBA may carry items which do not constitute campaigning for any political party or candidate.

6 Any person who commits an offense under the Regulations shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or both.

7 Any internet election advertisement which is displayed in contravention of any of the provisions of the regulations will be removed and the offender may be prosecuted. Reports of any violation of Internet election advertising regulations can be made to Tel: 835 7489

ISSUED BY: ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
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