

GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE



PRESS STATEMENT

GAZETTING OF SINGAPOREANS FOR DEMOCRACY AS A POLITICAL ASSOCIATION UNDER THE POLITICAL DONATIONS ACT

The Registry of Political Donations (RPD) has confirmed in response to media queries that it will be gazetting the society, Singaporeans for Democracy (SFD), as a Political Association under the Political Donations Act with immediate effect. The SFD has been informed in writing today.

2 The Political Donations Act that came into effect on 15 Feb 2001 prohibits political parties, political associations, and candidates in parliamentary or presidential elections from accepting donations from impermissible or foreign sources. The Act upholds a fundamental tenet of the political process in Singapore — politics in Singapore should be for Singaporeans only.

3 Under the Political Donations Act, the Prime Minister can declare an organisation as a political association for the purposes of the Political Donations Act, so long as its objects or activities relate wholly or mainly to politics in Singapore. An organisation, which is not registered as a political party, but carries out political activities in Singapore should logically also be prohibited from accepting foreign donations. This is to prevent foreign persons or organisations circumventing the provisions of the Act by donating to such organisations instead of political parties.

4 The SFD clearly states in its constitution that its objectives relate mainly to politics in Singapore, namely:

- a) Advocate for political and legislative reform in line with the principles embedded in the Singapore National Pledge “to build a democratic society, based on justice and equality”;
- b) Campaign for democracy related issues at the national, regional and international levels.

- c) Foster a multi-partisan civil and political platform, that includes individuals, non-governmental organisations and political parties, to promote democracy both locally and abroad; and
- d) Apply the use of new media tools for organizational decision making processes, information dissemination, networking, mobilization and advocacy to promote democracy.

5 In line with the objective to safeguard the integrity of the domestic political process, the Prime Minister has decided to declare the SFD as a Political Association under the Political Donations Act.

ISSUED BY : **REGISTRY OF POLITICAL DONATIONS
ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

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