

GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE



PRESS STATEMENT

GAZETTING OF “THE ONLINE CITIZEN” AS A POLITICAL ASSOCIATION UNDER THE POLITICAL DONATIONS ACT

The Prime Minister has by Order in the Government Gazette, declared the internet content providers of the internet website known as “The Online Citizen” (TOC), as a Political Association under the Political Donations Act (Cap. 236) with immediate effect.

2 The Political Donations Act that came into effect on 15 Feb 2001 sets out a framework to protect our political process from foreign interference. It prohibits political parties, political associations, and candidates in parliamentary or presidential elections from accepting donations from foreign sources, and requires transparency on large donations received. The Act upholds a fundamental tenet of the political process in Singapore — politics in Singapore should be for Singaporeans only.

3 Under Section 2(1) of the Political Donations Act, the Prime Minister can declare an organisation to be a political association for the purposes of the Political Donations Act, if the organisation’s objects or activities relate wholly or mainly to politics in Singapore.

4 The Attorney-General’s Chambers has advised that the internet content providers of “The Online Citizen” make up an organization whose activities relate wholly or mainly to politics in Singapore. As a website, “The Online Citizen” provides coverage, commentary and analysis of political issues, and a platform for discussing such issues. “The Online Citizen” has organised online and offline campaigns to change legislation and Government policies, provided a forum for local politicians, and polls on public support for local politicians and on other political issues concerning Singapore. Through such activities, “The Online Citizen” has the potential to influence the opinions of their readership and shape political outcomes in Singapore. It is therefore necessary to ensure that it is not funded by foreign elements or sources.

5 In line with the objective to safeguard the integrity of the domestic political process, the Prime Minister has declared “The Online Citizen” as a Political Association under the Political Donations Act.

ISSUED BY : **REGISTRY OF POLITICAL DONATIONS**

DATE : **17 February 2011**