

PRESS RELEASE

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATIVE CHANGES UNDER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ACT

The following subsidiary legislative changes under the Presidential Elections Act have been made, following the Statement from Prime Minister's Office on Campaigning for the Presidential Election issued on 8 July 2011. The changes to subsidiary legislation under the Act also serve to align the electoral administration process for Presidential Elections with that for Parliamentary Elections.

- a) Amendments to the Presidential Elections (Posters and Banners) Regulations are made to align the rules for the display of posters and banners for Presidential Elections with those for Parliamentary Elections. For example, new display of posters and banners and changes to or in the location of posters and banners already lawfully displayed before the start of Cooling-Off Day are not allowed on Cooling-Off Day and Polling Day.

In addition, as stated in the Prime Minister's Office statement on 8 July 2011, advertisements during the campaign period by civic, business and professional bodies to endorse certain Presidential Election candidates will be allowed¹. However, such advertisements must still not be published on Cooling-Off Day and Polling Day, in line with the ban on election advertising on Cooling-Off Day and Polling Day.

The non-partisan restrictions on posters and banners remain unchanged. Posters and banners at Presidential Election rally sites are not allowed to denote any political party affiliation, given the non-partisan character of the Presidential Election candidacy.

- b) Regulations under Sections 60A(2)(f) and 81 of the Presidential Elections Act are made to allow for Presidential Candidate Broadcasts over television on Cooling-Off Day.
- c) Regulations are made under Section 65 (2) to allow workers who are Singapore Permanent Residents or work-pass holders to carry out certain types of manual work pursuant to a contract for services between the candidate (or his election agent) and the person who is authorised to conduct election activities, i.e. putting up election posters and banners and taking them down, and setting up physical facilities at rally sites and assembly centres and dismantling them.

¹ However, the civic, business and professional bodies cannot be engaged to carry out any activity which is done for the purpose of promoting or procuring a candidate's election or defeat.

- d) Amendments to the Presidential Elections (Forms and Fees) regulations are made to update the forms used in the electoral administration process to align with the practice for Parliamentary Elections.
- e) Notification is made under section 60A(6) of the Presidential Elections Act to expand the list for more types of common promotional items to be exempted from the need for authorisation by the Returning Officer, as follows:
 - (i) Diaries or calendars on paper or paperboard;
 - (ii) Key chains;
 - (iii) Tissue packets;
 - (iv) T-shirts or other articles of apparel;
 - (v) Clothing accessories such as lapel pins, ties, scarves, caps or hats;
 - (vi) Miniature flags and pennants; and
 - (vii) Soft toys.
- f) Amendments to the Presidential Elections (Composition of Offences) Regulations are made to allow for offences arising from the amendments (such as prohibitions on Cooling-Off Day) to be compoundable.

2. The format of the ballot paper for Presidential Elections is also amended to include the photographs of Presidential Election candidates. This will allow voters to recognise the Presidential Election candidates more easily and facilitate their marking of voting choice on the ballot paper.

3. The subsidiary legislation is available at <http://www.elections.gov.sg>.

Exemption under Films Act

4. An exemption under the Films Act has also been made to allow any individual to exhibit and distribute live recordings of lawful election activities (“election campaign recordings”) as election advertising on the Internet, so long as the film does not distort or dramatise the election activity, and the film is not materially altered.

ISSUED BY : ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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