

PRESS RELEASE

BY-ELECTION FOR PUNGGOL EAST CONSTITUENCY

COOLING-OFF DAY AND POLLING DAY

26 January 2013 is Polling Day for the Punggol East by-election. The day before Polling Day, 25 January 2013, is Cooling-off Day.

Cooling-off Day

Cooling-off Day is a day when campaigning is disallowed and election advertising must not be published or displayed. This is to let voters reflect rationally on various issues raised at an election before going to the polls.

The following campaign and election advertising activities are prohibited on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day by the Parliamentary Elections Act:

- (a) Publication and display of election advertising (including on the Internet and by SMSes/MMSES) not already lawfully displayed or published before the start of Cooling-off Day;
- (b) Canvassing and visiting homes and workplaces of voters in connection with the election;
- (c) Wearing, carrying or displaying of any political insignia or propaganda (such as badge, symbol, rosette, favour, set of colours, flag, advertisement, handbill, placard, poster or replica of voting paper) on any person, motor-car, truck or other vehicle. Members of public should refrain from wearing any apparel bearing the image, election symbol and/or the campaign message of any candidate on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day; and
- (d) Holding of election meetings.

There are some exceptions to the prohibition of campaign activities on Cooling-off Day:

- (a) Reports in the newspapers, on radio and television relating to election matters;
- (b) Approved posters/banners lawfully displayed before the start of Cooling-off Day;
- (c) Other election advertising (including Internet election advertising) lawfully displayed or published before the start of Cooling-off Day;

- (d) Distribution or promotion of sale of any book if the book was scheduled for publication independent of the election and the book is not sold at less than its commercial value;
- (e) The transmission of personal political views by individuals to other individuals, on a non-commercial basis, using the Internet, telephone or electronic means; and
- (f) Candidates may continue to wear a replica of the symbol allotted to him.

Candidates and supporters should refrain from attending public events on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day. Attending religious ceremonies or worship services, or attending functions in the course of work or employment would still be permissible but this is subject to the general rule prohibiting campaigning and election advertising on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day.

The prohibitions relating to campaigning and election advertising during Cooling-off Day and Polling Day are spelt out in the Parliamentary Elections Act, in particular sections 77, 78B, 78C, 78D, 80 and 80A.

The Parliamentary Elections Act also prohibits the publishing of election survey results on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day, and publishing of exit polls on Polling Day before the close of all polling stations.

Voting on Polling Day

Polling stations are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Polling Day. Voters are reminded to:-

- Bring their original NRIC/passport and poll card to the polling station to cast their vote;
- Mark their choice with an “X” on the ballot paper; and
- Drop their ballot paper into the ballot box before leaving the polling station.

Voters may wish to avoid going to the polling station in the morning when there are queues and hence the waiting times tend to be longer. However, voters should not go to vote too late, as ballot papers cannot be issued after polling closes at 8 p.m.

ISSUED BY : ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

DATE : 23 JANUARY 2013