

PRESS RELEASE

COOLING-OFF DAY AND POLLING DAY - GENERAL ELECTION 2015

11 September 2015 is Polling Day for General Election (GE) 2015 in Singapore. The day before Polling Day, 10 September 2015, is Cooling-off Day.

Cooling-off Day (Thursday 10 September 2015)

2 Cooling-off Day is a day when campaigning is disallowed and election advertising must not be published or displayed. This 24-hour campaign silence period is to let voters reflect rationally on various issues raised at an election before going to the polls.

3 The following campaign activities are prohibited on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day:

- a) Canvassing and visiting homes and workplaces of voters in connection with the election;
- b) Wearing, using, carrying or displaying of any political propaganda (such as a badge, symbol, rosette, favour, set of colours, flag, advertisement, handbill, placard, poster or replica of a voting paper) by any person or on any motor-car, truck or other vehicle. Members of the public should refrain from wearing any apparel bearing the image, election symbol and/or campaign message of any candidate on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day; and
- c) Holding election meetings.

4 The following are prohibited at any time on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day at an election in an electoral division:

- a) Knowingly publishing, or knowingly causing or permitting to be published, any election advertising in or among electors in the electoral division; and
- b) Knowingly displaying, or knowingly causing or permitting to be displayed, any election advertising on any vehicle, thing or structure within the electoral division or adjoining the electoral division¹.

¹ Parliamentary Elections Act ([PEA](#)) Section 78B(1)

5 There are some exceptions to the prohibitions of knowingly publishing or displaying election advertising on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day:

- a) Reports in the newspapers, on radio and television relating to election matters;
- b) Party Political Broadcasts scheduled from 9pm onwards on Cooling-off Day (*please see [MDA's news release](#) for more info*)
- c) Approved posters/banners lawfully displayed before the start of Cooling-off Day;
- d) Election advertising that was lawfully displayed or published before the start of Cooling-off Day on the Internet and that was not changed after its publication or display²; However, programmatic advertising, i.e. using technology to automatically deliver digital ads online and on social media platforms, should not be conducted on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day.
- e) Distribution or promotion of the 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;
- f) The transmission of personal political views by individuals to other individuals, on a non-commercial basis, using the Internet, telephone or electronic means;
- g) The wearing by candidates, of a badge indicating affiliation with a political party or replica of the symbol allotted to them.

6 Candidates and their supporters are expected to abide fully by all relevant laws on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day, and should refrain from conduct that goes against the spirit behind the prohibition against campaigning on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day.

7 Candidates should be mindful of how they conduct themselves in public and exercise due care to avoid any action that may be perceived as campaigning. To avoid any misunderstanding, candidates should, as far as possible, refrain from visiting their constituents or attending public events in their constituencies on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day, where they are likely to attract public attention and may be perceived to be canvassing for support. At such events, candidates' presence, actions, communications and exchanges (including private exchanges), are highly visible and may be perceived as campaigning.

² Parliamentary Elections Act ([PEA](#)) Section 78B(2)(d)

8 Attending religious ceremonies for private prayer or worship, or attending functions in the course of work or employment would still be permissible, subject to the general prohibitions against campaigning and election advertising on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day.

9 Please also be reminded that the publication of election surveys and exit polls are prohibited before the close of all polling stations³.

Voting on Polling Day (Friday 11 September 2015)

10 Polling stations in Singapore are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Polling Day (no ballot papers will be issued after polling closes at 8pm). Voters are reminded to:-

- a) Bring their original NRIC/passport and poll card to the polling station to cast their vote;
- b) Mark their choice with a cross ("X") on the ballot paper in the space provided on the right hand side of the ballot paper opposite the name of the candidate or, if the electoral division is a group representation constituency, the names of the group of candidates; and
- c) Fold their ballot paper so as to conceal their vote, and put the folded ballot paper into the ballot box before leaving the polling station.

11 Voters may wish to avoid going to the polling station during the morning peak period when waiting duration tends to be longer. Please also note that bringing or using any camera, video or photographic equipment in the polling station is disallowed. For more guidance on the Do's and Don'ts on Polling Day, please visit ELD's website (http://www.eld.gov.sg/voters_dosdents.html)

**ISSUED BY
ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
9 SEPTEMBER 2015**

³ Parliamentary Elections Act ([PEA](#)) Sections 78C and 78D