

PRESS RELEASE

ENHANCEMENTS TO ELECTION PROCESSES

As part of ongoing efforts to update and enhance election processes, the Elections Department (ELD) is making the following revisions:

Increase in Parliamentary Election Expenses Limit

2 The maximum spending limit will be raised from \$3.50 to \$4.00 for every elector on the register of electors for the electoral division that the candidate is seeking election to be a Member of Parliament¹ to account for inflation.

3 The law imposes a ceiling on a candidate's election expenses to ensure a level playing field. Spending in excess of the maximum amount in the law is an illegal practice².

ELD Website Update on Maximum Number of Posters and Banners in Electoral Divisions

4 A maximum number of posters and banners that can be displayed is set for each candidate or group of candidates contesting in an electoral division. In past elections, candidates were provided this maximum number after the close of nomination proceedings (on Nomination Day).

5 To better facilitate candidates' planning, ELD has published on its website in advance the formulae to compute the maximum number of posters and banners for each electoral division (see *Annex A* for details).

Closer Placement for the Display of Posters and Banners

6 Candidates are not allowed to display posters and banners within a designated radius from a polling station, to minimise undue influence on voters.

7 As there has been a significant increase in the number of polling stations to improve voter accessibility, the current 200-metre prohibition zone has resulted in limited areas for the legitimate display of posters and banners, especially in built-up residential estates. Hence, the radius of the prohibition zone for the display of posters and banners will be reduced from 200 to 50 metres.

¹ The Parliamentary Election Expenses refer to expenses incurred before, during or after the election on account of or in respect to the conduct or management of the election of the candidate. They do not include candidate's expenditure for his personal expenses and any fee paid to the election agent not exceeding \$500.

² If a candidate is contesting as part of a group of candidates in a GRC, the maximum spending limit per candidate in the group is determined as follows:

$$(\$4.00 \times E) \div C$$

Where E is the total number of electors in the register of electors for the GRC; and
C is the number of candidates in the group.

Appointment of the Malay Community Committee and Indian & Other Minority Communities Committee

8 Every group of persons who wishes to stand for parliamentary election in a group representation constituency (GRC) is required to have at least one candidate belonging to either the Malay community, or the Indian and other minority communities. In addition to the nomination paper and Political Donation Certificate, the group is required to produce a Certificate of the Malay Community Committee (MCC) or a Certificate of the Indian and Other Minority Communities Committee (IOMCC) to the Returning Officer on Nomination Day.

9 To be issued the certificate, the person must apply to the appropriate committees by submitting the completed forms (hardcopy) to the Elections Department³. The composition of the respective committees is at *Annex B*.

Ballot Paper to include candidates' photos

10 To make it easier for voters, especially the elderly, to identify the candidates they wish to vote for, candidates' photos will be included in the ballot papers for the next General Election. The new ballot papers will be larger to accommodate the photos. Candidates' photos on the ballot papers were introduced for the first time at the 2011 Presidential Election, garnering generally positive public feedback. .

11 Other format changes to help voters mark their choices clearly include white boxes against a darkened background, and wider gaps between the boxes to mark 'X' to prevent voters from marking across boxes of different rows.

12 Details of the format changes will be made known closer to Polling Day of the General Election.

**ISSUED BY
ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

20 August 2015

³ The forms can be downloaded from the ELD website (www.eld.gov.sg). Alternatively, the forms can be collected from ELD's premises at 11 Prinsep Link Singapore 187949.

ANNEX A

Maximum number of posters and banners allowed

The maximum number of posters and banners allowed is:

- 1 poster to every 50 electors in the register (rounded to nearest 100), subject to minimum of:
 - 500 per SMC,
 - 2,000 per 4-MP GRC,
 - 2,500 per 5-MP GRC, or
 - 3,000 per 6-MP GRC.

- 1 banner to every 5,000 electors in the register (rounded to whole number), subject to minimum of:
 - 5 per SMC,
 - 20 per 4-MP GRC,
 - 25 per 5-MP GRC, or
 - 30 per 6-MP GRC.

ANNEX B

Members of Malay Community Committee and Indian and Other Minority Communities Committee

The members of the Malay Community Committee are:

- i. Imram Bin Mohamed – Chairman
- ii. Fatimah Binte Azimullah
- iii. Mohammad Alami Musa
- iv. Yatiman Bin Yusof
- v. Zulkifli Bin Baharudin

The members of the Indian and Other Minority Communities Committee are:

- i. Kaisavapany s/o Krishnasamy – Chairman
- ii. Gerard Francis De Silva
- iii. Rangareddy Jayachandran
- iv. Ravinder Singh s/o Harchand Singh
- v. Satkunanantham s/o Kandiah