

PRESS RELEASE

BY-ELECTION FOR BUKIT BATOK CONSTITUENCY COOLING-OFF DAY AND POLLING DAY

7 May 2016 is Polling Day for the Bukit Batok Constituency By-Election in Singapore. The day before Polling Day, 6 May 2016, is Cooling-off Day.

2 Cooling-off Day is a day when campaigning is disallowed and new election advertising must not be published or displayed.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.

Prohibited Activities on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day

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 motorcar, 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:

- a) Knowingly publishing, or knowingly causing or permitting to be published, any election advertising in or among electors in Bukit Batok Constituency; and
- b) Knowingly displaying, or knowingly causing or permitting to be displayed, any election advertising on any vehicle, thing or structure within or adjoining Bukit Batok Constituency.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) Approved posters/banners lawfully displayed before the start of Cooling-off Day;
- c) 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 display.² However, programmatic advertising, i.e. using technology to

¹ Parliamentary Elections Act (PEA) Section 78B(1)

² Parliamentary Elections Act (PEA) Section 78B(2)(d)

automatically deliver digital ads online and on social media platforms, should not be conducted on Cooling-off Day and Polling Day.

- d) 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;
- e) The transmission of personal political views by individuals to other individuals, on a non-commercial basis, using the Internet, telephone or electronic means;
- f) 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 voters or attending public events in Bukit Batok Constituency 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.

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 is prohibited before the close of all polling stations.³

Voting on Polling Day (Saturday, 7 May 2016)

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 8pm). Voters are reminded to:-

- a) Bring their original NRIC/passport to the polling station to cast their vote. Voters should also bring along the poll card to facilitate checks by election officials and this would reduce waiting time;
- 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 they are voting for; 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.

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

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 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
5 MAY 2016**