

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ISSUE OF CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY AND MALAY COMMUNITY CERTIFICATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2017**

The Presidential Election 2017 is reserved for the Malay community. For an individual to qualify as a candidate, he or she must receive both a Certificate of Eligibility from the Presidential Elections Committee (PEC), and a Community Certificate from the Community Committee (CC) stating that he or she belongs to the Malay community.

#### **Applications made**

2 Five individuals applied for a Certificate of Eligibility. Of these five individuals, three declared that they belonged to the Malay community and applied for Malay Community Certificates.

#### **Decisions on Certificate of Eligibility**

3 The PEC has decided to issue one Certificate of Eligibility.

#### **Decisions on Community Certificates**

4 The CC referred all three applications for a Malay Community Certificate to the Malay Community Sub-Committee (MCSC), and the MCSC has concluded that all three applicants belong to the Malay community. The CC will therefore issue three Malay Community Certificates.

5 As this Presidential Election is reserved for the Malay community, the CC rejected the two community declarations where the declarants did not declare themselves to be a member of the Malay community.

#### **Individuals issued with both Certificates**

6 One individual will be issued with both the Certificate of Eligibility and the Malay Community Certificate.

#### **Notification to candidates**

7 The Elections Department has notified all five individuals on the outcome of their applications. Reasons were also given to the unsuccessful applicants for a Certificate of Eligibility. The PEC and the Elections Department will not, in the first instance, publish the names of the unsuccessful applicants or the reasons given to them. This is to give effect to the recommendation of the Constitutional Commission that unsuccessful applicants should not be disclosed to the public, to reduce the prospect of potential applicants being dissuaded from stepping forward to contest the elections. An unsuccessful applicant is free to publish the reasons given to him or her.

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

**11 SEPTEMBER 2017**

## **Background Information**

### **Presidential Elections Committee (PEC)**

The role of the PEC is to ensure that candidates for the office of President have the qualifications referred to in Article 19 of the Constitution. Upon being satisfied that the applicant fulfils the criteria required in the law, the PEC will issue the Certificate of Eligibility to him.

The PEC will furnish reasons for denying an applicant a Certificate of Eligibility to the applicant only. It is up to the unsuccessful applicant to decide if he wishes to reveal the reasons.

Under the law, the PEC cannot publish the reasons unless –

- (a) the application was rejected because it was not made according to the Presidential Elections Act;
- (b) the applicant published any part of the reasons given to the applicant by the PEC;
- (c) the publication of its reasons is, in the PEC's opinion, necessary to respond to any public allegation made against the PEC.

The PEC's decision is final and not subject to appeal or review in any court.

### **Community Committee (CC)**

The role of the CC is to decide whether a candidate who has submitted a community declaration belongs to the Chinese community, the Malay community, or the Indian or other minority communities. As Presidential Election 2017 is a reserved election for the Malay community, a Malay Community Certificate shall be issued to the applicant if the Malay Community Sub-Committee concludes that the applicant belongs to the Malay community.

The decision of the CC and its Sub-Committees in relation to a community declaration is final and is not subject to appeal or review in any court.