

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ELD'S STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA QUERIES ON COMPLAINTS ABOUT CAMPAIGN POSTERS DURING GENERAL ELECTION 2020**

During the Debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President, MP Dennis Tan spoke about two complaints that were made to the Elections Department (ELD) during the recent General Elections about his campaign posters. ELD would like to make the following clarifications.

2 ELD received over 220 feedback and complaints from members of the public as well as political parties, relating to posters and banners put up by candidates and political parties for GE2020. The breaches included posters and banners being within 50m of a polling station, not in possession of the Returning Officer's stamp and below the 2.2m height requirement.

3 In Mr Dennis Tan's case, ELD confirms that both complaints related to his posters were because they were below the 2.2m height requirement. This is to ensure that posters do not obstruct the line of sight for motorists.

4 When ELD receives such complaints, regardless of political party, ELD's approach is to ask the election agent to rectify the posters in breach of the rules within 3 hours. If this is done, no further action will be taken. In most cases, rectifications were done within the 3-hour timeframe and no further action was taken. This was also the case for the complaints relating to Mr Dennis Tan's posters. ELD notes that Mr Tan has acknowledged in Parliament that ELD has been "even-handed" in handling complaints received.

5 Mr Dennis Tan alleged that a resident had informed him that his posters were pulled down from the original height. This is a serious allegation. ELD has not received any such report from Mr Tan. Mr Tan should file a report with ELD so that this can be investigated.

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

**31 AUGUST 2020**