

PRESS RELEASE

FALSEHOODS ON INVISIBLE INK USED IN SELF-INKING PENS

The Elections Department (ELD) is aware that there is false information circulating online and on instant messaging platforms that the ballot papers and self-inking pens provided by ELD for General Election 2020 (GE2020) have been treated such that marks made on the ballot papers will become invisible after several minutes.

2. ELD would like to state categorically that this is not true. First, the marks made using the self-inking pens are permanent. In fact, the ink is oil-based, and water and temperature resistant. Similar pens have also been used in elections in other countries, including the Republic of Korea.

3. Second, the ballot papers used for GE2020 are no different from the ballot papers used in past elections and are printed under tight security conditions. It will not be possible for the ballot papers to be put through any additional treatment under such a tightly controlled environment.

4. The introduction of self-inking pens is to allow voters to indicate their choice on the ballot papers clearly and easily. This arose from feedback in previous elections that some voters, especially more senior voters, had difficulty gripping regular pens to mark their votes. Furthermore, ELD has informed voters that they may bring their own pens to mark the ballot papers.

5. ELD is committed to ensuring voting security and secrecy, and has put in place rigorous controls at every step of the voting process to ensure this.

ISSUED BY:
ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

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