

**Statement by Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, on
allegation by Mr Dennis Tan relating to his campaign posters during
General Election 2020**

Thursday, 3 September 2020

On Monday, during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President, Mr Dennis Tan stated that he had to rectify the position of his posters arising from two complaints about his campaign posters to the Elections Department (ELD) during the recent General Election. He said that both complaints related to his posters being below the 2.2m minimum height requirement, which is meant to prevent posters from obstructing the line of sight for motorists. Mr Tan further said and I quote “one resident told me that she has witnessed the PAP team pulling down our posters from the original height. She showed me where they allegedly took place and I have no reason to doubt what she said”, end of quote. This is a serious allegation.

2 When challenged in this House by Mr Murali, Mr Tan acknowledged that ELD has been “even-handed” in handling complaints received from all political parties and candidates.

3 ELD has not received any report from Mr Tan on his allegation that his posters were pulled down from the original height. In its press statement on 31 Aug 2020, ELD invited him to file a report so that it could investigate the matter. ELD also explained its enforcement approach when it receives such complaints, which is to ask the election agent to rectify the posters in breach of the rules within 3 hours.

4 Mr Tan has replied to ELD on 2 Sep 2020 that he did not make a report to ELD during the GE as he was focusing on his election campaign and he had no plans to do so now.

5 Anyone who makes such allegations publicly should substantiate their allegations with evidence. More so when such allegations are made in this House. And in the spirit of constructive politics that we discussed in recent days in this House, it cannot be that a Member stands up to raise doubts, and does not follow through to substantiate his allegations. ELD takes all such allegations seriously, and will investigate them thoroughly and impartially. This is to be fair to all parties involved, protect the integrity of the election processes, and continue to uphold trust in our elections.

6 Mr Speaker, I wish to have the Press Statement issued by ELD and the correspondence between Mr Tan and ELD brought to the attention of Members and entered into the Parliamentary records.