

## PRESS RELEASE

### ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2023

At the close of applications for a Certificate of Eligibility on 17 August 2023, 5:30pm, the Presidential Elections Committee (Committee) received a total of 6 applications. The Committee has issued a Certificate of Eligibility to the following:

- (a) Mr Ng Kok Song;
- (b) Mr Shanmugaratnam Tharman; and
- (c) Mr Tan Kin Lian.

2 Mr Ng Kok Song applied under Article 19(3)(c) of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Constitution). Based on the information available to the Committee, it is satisfied that Mr Ng is a man of integrity, good character and reputation. The Committee noted that Mr Ng was the Group Chief Investment Officer of GIC Private Limited for a period exceeding 3 years. The Committee is also satisfied, having regard to the nature of Mr Ng's office in GIC Private Limited and Mr Ng's performance in the office, that Mr Ng has experience and ability that is comparable to the experience and ability of a person who satisfies Article 19(3)(b) of the Constitution. The Committee is also satisfied that Mr Ng has the experience and ability to effectively carry out the functions and duties of the office of President.

3 Mr Shanmugaratnam Tharman applied under Article 19(3)(a) of the Constitution. Based on the information available to the Committee, it is satisfied that Mr Tharman is a man of integrity, good character and reputation. The Committee is also satisfied that Mr Tharman has met the public sector service requirement under Article 19(3)(a), having held office for a period of 3 or more years as Minister.

4 Mr Tan Kin Lian applied under Article 19(4)(b) of the Constitution. Based on the information available to the Committee, it is satisfied that Mr Tan is a man of integrity, good character and reputation. The Committee noted that Mr Tan was the Chief Executive Officer of NTUC Income Insurance Co-operative Limited for a period exceeding 3 years. The Committee is satisfied, having regard to the nature of Mr Tan's office in NTUC Income Insurance Co-operative Limited, the size and complexity of NTUC Income Insurance Co-operative Limited and Mr Tan's performance in the office, that Mr Tan has experience and ability that is comparable to the experience and ability of a person who has served as the chief executive of a typical company with at least S\$500 million of shareholders' equity and who satisfies Article 19(4)(a) of the Constitution in relation to such service. The Committee is also satisfied that Mr Tan has the experience and ability to effectively carry out the functions and duties of the office of President.

## **Notification to candidates**

5 The Elections Department has notified all the three individuals above of the outcome of their applications.

6 Unsuccessful applicants for a Certificate of Eligibility have also been informed of the outcome of their applications and the reasons for the Committee's decision. Pursuant to regulation 11(2) of the Presidential Elections (Certificate of Eligibility) Regulations 2017, the Committee may only publish its reasons for rejecting an application in the circumstances set out in regulation 11(3), and must not do so outside of those circumstances.<sup>1</sup> Hence, the Committee will not publish the reasons for rejecting the applications of the unsuccessful applicants. The names of unsuccessful applicants will also not be published, in light of the concern expressed in the Report of the Constitutional Commission 2016 that potential applicants may be dissuaded from stepping forward to contest the elections for fear of embarrassment. However, unsuccessful applicants are not precluded from publishing the Committee's reasons provided to them.

**ISSUED BY  
SECRETARIAT, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
C/O ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

**18 AUGUST 2023**

<sup>1</sup> Regulation 11 states that "(1) If the Committee rejects an application, the Committee must give its reasons in writing to the applicant. (2) Subject to paragraph (3), the Committee must not publish its reasons for rejecting an application. (3) The Committee may publish its reasons for rejecting an application in the following circumstances: (a) the application was rejected because it was not made according to the Act; (b) the applicant published any part of the reasons given to the applicant by the Committee; (c) the publication of its reasons is, in the Committee's opinion, necessary to respond to any public allegation made against the Committee."