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PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
(COVID-19 SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS)
ACT 2020
(ACT 21 OF 2020)

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
(COVID-19 SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS)
REGULATIONS 2020

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In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6(3) of the Parliamentary Elections (COVID-19 Special Arrangements) Act 2020, the Prime Minister makes the following Regulations:

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations are the Parliamentary Elections (COVID-19 Special Arrangements) Regulations 2020 and come into operation on 1 July 2020.

Definitions

2.—(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“certified register of electors”, in relation to any electoral division —

(a) means the register of electors certified under section 13 of the principal Act and in operation at the time of the election of a Member of Parliament to represent the electoral division; and

(b) includes any composite register prepared under section 20A of the principal Act for that electoral division;

“COVID-19 stay order” means an order under the Stay Order Regulations that an individual given the order must not leave a place of accommodation specified;

“independent candidate” means a candidate who is not a candidate for a political party;

“list of mobile polling electors” means the list required by regulation 3(2) to be prepared for the purposes of a poll at a special polling station using mobile polling and that is certified under regulation 3(3)(c), and includes a supplementary list of mobile polling electors prepared for the purposes of the same poll at that special polling station;

“list of stay order electors” means the list required by regulation 3(1) to be prepared for the purposes of a poll at a special polling station and that is certified under regulation 3(3)(c), and includes a supplementary list of stay order electors prepared for the purposes of the same poll at that special polling station;

“mobile polling determination” means a determination made under regulation 6(1) with respect to a particular boarding premises to enable votes of stay order electors required by the Stay Order Regulations to not leave those boarding premises, to be cast using a mobile polling team;

“mobile polling team” means a mobile polling team appointed under regulation 30;

“mobile polling team officer” means a member of a mobile polling team appointed under regulation 30;

“notice of contested election”, in relation to any electoral division, means the notice issued under section 34(6) or 34A(6) of the principal Act (as the case may be) in relation to that electoral division;

“NRIC number” means the number of an identity card issued under the National Registration Act (Cap. 201);

“official languages” means Malay, Mandarin, Tamil and English;

“poll” means a poll that must be held for an election in an electoral division because a notice of contested election is published in respect of that electoral division;

“presiding officer” includes a senior presiding officer appointed under section 36(1A) of the principal Act and an Assistant Returning Officer who presides at any special polling station;

“principal Act” means the Parliamentary Elections Act (Cap. 218);

“Registration Officer” includes an Assistant Registration Officer appointed under section 3 of the principal Act;

“responsible officer”, in relation to a political party, means —

(a) for a political party that is a body corporate, the secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate; and

(b) for a political party that is an unincorporated association, the secretary of the committee of the unincorporated association or the person holding a position analogous to that of the secretary,

and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity or who is carrying out the duties of any such office referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) where the office is vacant;

“special polling station” means a polling station established under section 5(2) of the Act at a boarding premises;

“stay order elector” means an elector who —

(a) is entitled to vote at an election in an electoral division; but

(b) is, on the polling day of the election, subject to a COVID-19 stay order and is required by the Stay

Order Regulations to not leave a place of accommodation that is in a boarding premises;

“Stay Order Regulations” means the Infectious Diseases (COVID-19 — Stay Orders) Regulations 2020 (G.N. No. S 182/2020);

“supplementary list of mobile polling electors” means a supplementary list of mobile polling electors required to be prepared and certified under regulation 3(5)(d)(ii) and (e) for the purposes of a poll at that special polling station;

“supplementary list of stay order electors” means a supplementary list of stay order electors required to be prepared and certified under regulation 3(5)(d)(i) and (e) for the purposes of a poll at that special polling station;

“the Act” means the Parliamentary Elections (COVID-19 Special Arrangements) Act 2020 (Act 21 of 2020);

“voting hours” means —

- (a) for a special polling station at which a poll must be held, the period required by section 5(4)(b) of the Act to be specified in a notice of contested election or specified in a notice under section 5(5) of the Act as the period during which votes may be cast at that special polling station;
- (b) for electors described in regulation 40, the time prescribed in that regulation with respect to those electors; or
- (c) in any other case, the period appointed by or under section 39(3) of the principal Act.

(2) Unless expressly provided otherwise in paragraph (1), any word or expression in these Regulations that is defined in section 2(1) of the principal Act has the meaning given to it by that section.

PART 2

SPECIAL POLLING STATIONS

*Division 1 — Lists of stay order electors and
mobile polling electors*

List of stay order electors and mobile polling electors

3.—(1) Where a special polling station is established at any particular boarding premises for a poll, the Returning Officer must prepare or cause to be prepared a list for that special polling station, showing every stay order elector who is allotted to that special polling station (called the list of stay order electors).

(2) Where —

(a) a special polling station is established at any particular boarding premises; and

(b) a mobile polling determination is made under regulation 6(1) with respect to the boarding premises,

the Returning Officer must include in the list of stay order electors prepared under paragraph (1) for that special polling station, (now renamed the list of mobile polling electors for that special polling station) the place of accommodation in the boarding premises of every stay order elector who —

(c) is allotted to vote at that special polling station; and

(d) is within the class of such electors described in that mobile polling determination who may vote at a poll at the special polling station using mobile polling teams.

(3) To prepare the list of stay order electors or list of mobile polling electors (as the case may be) for any special polling station established at any boarding premises, the Returning Officer must —

(a) extract from the certified registers of electors for all electoral divisions in respect of which a notice of contested election is published, the names and descriptions in those registers of every stay order elector who is required by the Stay Order Regulations to not leave those boarding premises;

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- (b) match those names and descriptions with the names provided under paragraph (4) of electors having a place of accommodation in the boarding premises and to whom a COVID-19 stay order is given requiring the elector to not leave the place of accommodation; and
- (c) ensure that the list of stay order electors or the list of mobile polling electors (if any) for that special polling station is certified as accurate by the Registration Officer, no later than 30 minutes before the start of the voting hours at the special polling station on the polling day when the poll must be held.
- (4) The Returning Officer may, for the purposes of paragraph (3) in relation to a special polling station established at a boarding premises for a poll, request and receive information from —
- (a) the Director of Medical Services about electors to whom the Director of Medical Services or any police officer, immigration officer or Health Officer has given a COVID-19 stay order requiring the elector to not leave the boarding premises on the polling day when the poll must be held; and
- (b) the person having control of the management of the boarding premises about electors who have a place of accommodation in the boarding premises on the polling day when the poll must be held,
- and the person in sub-paragraph (b) must disclose that information to the Returning Officer.
- (5) However, where the Returning Officer becomes aware that on the polling day when a poll must be held at a special polling station established at a boarding premises —
- (a) after the last time allowed under paragraph (3)(c) to certify the list of stay order electors or list of mobile polling electors (if any) for the special polling station; but

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- (b) no later than one hour before the close of polling at that special polling station,

an elector on a certified register of electors becomes a stay order elector required to not leave a place of accommodation in those boarding premises, the Returning Officer must, without delay —

- (c) allot him or her to vote at that special polling station;
- (d) prepare or cause to be prepared —
- (i) one or more supplementary lists of stay order electors for that special polling station, showing every stay order elector in sub-paragraph (c); and
 - (ii) where a mobile polling determination is made with respect to that boarding premises, one or more supplementary lists of mobile polling electors showing every such stay order elector in sub-paragraph (c) who is within the class of electors described in that mobile polling determination who may vote at the poll using mobile polling teams; and
- (e) ensure that every supplementary list of stay order electors or supplementary list of mobile polling electors (if any) so prepared is certified as accurate by the Registration Officer.

(6) Paragraphs (3) and (4) apply in relation to the preparation of any supplementary list of stay order electors and any supplementary list of mobile polling electors under paragraph (5) with such modifications as may be necessary.

Lists accessible to polling agents

4.—(1) A copy of every list of stay order electors or list of mobile polling electors (if any) for a special polling station may, at the discretion of the Returning Officer, be inspected —

- (a) by the candidate or his or her polling agent authorised to attend at the special polling station; but

(b) before the start of polling and mobile polling (if any) at the special polling station.

(2) A copy of every supplementary list of stay order electors or supplementary list of mobile polling electors (if any) must be made available for inspection by the candidate or his or her polling agent authorised to attend at the special polling station as soon as practicable after it is certified under regulation 3(5)(e).

Entitlement to vote at special polling station, etc.

5.—(1) Each stay order elector entitled to vote at a special polling station has only one vote.

(2) The list of stay order electors extracted from the certified registers of electors for all electoral divisions in respect of which a notice of contested election is published and containing the stay order electors allotted to vote at the particular special polling station in respect of which that list was prepared, is conclusive evidence for the purpose of determining whether a person is or is not entitled to vote at that special polling station, subject to sections 6 and 7 of the principal Act.

(3) Where —

(a) a special polling station is established at any particular boarding premises; and

(b) a determination is made under regulation 3(1) with respect to those boarding premises, specifying a class of stay order electors allotted to the special polling station who may vote at a poll at the special polling station using a mobile polling team,

the list of mobile polling electors extracted from the certified registers of electors for all electoral divisions in respect of which a notice of contested election is published and containing the stay order electors allotted to vote at that particular special polling station in respect of which that list was prepared, is conclusive evidence for the purpose of determining whether a person is or is not entitled to vote using a mobile polling team at the poll, subject to sections 6 and 7 of the principal Act.

(4) However, without limiting the provisions of the principal Act, an individual who, by reason of circumstances existing on the polling day when a poll must be held, is not, by virtue of the provisions of the principal Act, entitled to have his or her name entered or retained in any certified register of electors is not entitled to vote at a poll at any special polling station.

(5) A stay order elector whose name appears on —

- (a) any list of stay order electors showing him or her to be allotted to vote at a poll at a particular special polling station is entitled and allowed to vote at that special polling station only and not at any other polling station at that poll; or
- (b) any list of mobile polling electors showing him or her to be entitled to vote at a poll at a particular special polling station using a mobile polling team is entitled and allowed to vote at that poll using the mobile polling team at that special polling station only, and not in any other manner.

Division 2 — Determination to provide mobile polling

Determining which stations to be served by mobile polling teams

6.—(1) Where a special polling station is established at any particular boarding premises for a poll, the Returning Officer may, after having regard to the factors in paragraph (2), determine that on the polling day for that election, the stay order electors who are —

- (a) required by the Stay Order Regulations to not leave a place of accommodation in those boarding premises; and
- (b) allotted to the special polling station,

may cast their votes using a mobile polling team in accordance with this Part, instead of in person at the special polling station.

(2) The factors for making a determination under paragraph (1) with respect to any particular boarding premises are —

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- (a) whether or not —
- (i) there is a distinct community of stay order electors residing in those boarding premises who may be served by a mobile polling team; and
 - (ii) there are special circumstances applying to the stay order electors residing in those boarding premises who may be served by the mobile polling team (for example, because of their special needs or requirements for delaying or otherwise controlling the incidence or transmission of COVID-19 in Singapore);
- (b) the practicality for those electors to vote in person at the special polling station; and
- (c) the practicality of establishing the mobile polling team for those electors, having regard to the number of electors and the resources required for doing so.
- (3) The determination under paragraph (1) must —
- (a) be made not later than 2 clear days before the polling day; and
 - (b) specify the class of stay order electors who may cast their votes using mobile polling teams.

Notice of determination to have mobile polling teams

7. The Returning Officer must —
- (a) cause notice of every determination under regulation 6(1) to be published in the *Gazette* at least 2 clear days before the polling day when a poll must be held, that —
 - (i) specifies the boarding premises with respect to which the determination is made;
 - (ii) describes the class of stay order electors whose votes may be cast using mobile polling teams; and
 - (iii) specifies the voting hours on the polling day during which the votes of that class of stay order electors

may be cast at the poll using mobile polling teams;
and

- (b) as far as practicable, notify the stay order electors in that class to be served by the mobile polling team about the matters in paragraph (a), in a way that is reasonable in the circumstances.

Division 3 — Materials and facilities

Delivery and safekeeping of election materials

8.—(1) At any time —

- (a) after the notice of contested election is published in the *Gazette*; but
- (b) before voting begins at any special polling station established for any boarding premises, whether or not a mobile polling determination is made with respect to those premises,

the Returning Officer must deliver to the Assistant Returning Officer assigned to the special polling station, sufficient quantities of election materials and the necessary instructions for the presiding officers and members of the mobile polling team (if any) to perform their duties under the principal Act, the Act and these Regulations.

(2) Without limiting paragraph (1), the Returning Officer must deliver —

- (a) enough ballot papers for the number of stay order electors allotted to vote at that special polling station;
- (b) the necessary materials for electors to mark their votes on the ballot papers;
- (c) all certified registers of electors in a suitable form;
- (d) the list of stay order electors or list of mobile polling electors (if any) for the special polling station in question;
- (e) one or more ballot boxes;
- (f) the form of the oaths or declarations to be administered to electors;

- (g) the necessary envelopes, forms and other supplies that may be authorised or provided by the Returning Officer in connection with the conduct of a poll at the special polling station; and
- (h) all names and particulars of persons received by the Returning Officer under section 39 of the principal Act as modified by section 6(2)(c) of the Act, as the persons appointed to act as polling agents at that special polling station.

Ballot papers and ballot boxes

9.—(1) The votes to be given by stay order electors allotted to vote at any special polling station must be given by ballot consisting of a ballot paper in the same form as that prescribed in the principal Act.

(2) Every such ballot paper must —

- (a) contain the names of candidates in English, arranged in the same manner as prescribed in section 40(2) or (3) of the principal Act, as the case may be;
- (b) comply with section 40A of the principal Act;
- (c) clearly demarcate the area within which a voter must mark his or her vote for a candidate or a group of candidates;
- (d) be numbered on its back, with the same serial number printed on the face of its counterfoil; and
- (e) be capable of being folded.

(3) The official mark for the authentication of ballot papers to be used (whether or not in mobile polling) in a special polling station at a poll at an election must be such mark as the Returning Officer may approve under the principal Act for ballot papers to be used at a poll elsewhere in Singapore at the same election.

(4) Every ballot box to be used at a special polling station (whether or not in mobile polling) must be so constructed such that the ballot papers can be introduced into the box after it has been sealed or locked but cannot be withdrawn from the box unless the seal or lock is broken.

Voting compartments

10.—(1) Each special polling station with respect to which no mobile polling determination is made, must contain one or more polling places with voting compartments arranged and such other reasonable facilities so that each stay order elector allotted to vote at that special polling station may mark his or her ballot paper screened from observation and without interference or interruption.

(2) Each voting compartment must have in it a suitable pencil or a pen using indelible ink for the use of voters marking their ballot papers.

Directions to voters

11.—(1) Before the poll opens at a special polling station, a presiding officer assigned to the special polling station must —

- (a) cause a notice giving directions for the guidance of voters in voting to be displayed on or at a conspicuous place outside the special polling station if no mobile polling determination is made with respect to that station; or
- (b) as far as practicable, notify every stay order elector who is entitled to vote at the poll using mobile polling teams, of directions for the guidance of voters voting by mobile polling, in a way that is reasonable in the circumstances.

(2) Directions required by this regulation must be in English.

(3) Any direction mentioned in paragraph (1) must contain the following information for each candidate at the election for all electoral divisions in respect of which a notice of contested election is published:

- (a) the name of the candidate in the official languages;
- (b) the symbol allotted to the candidate, or the group of candidates comprising the candidate, under section 34 or 34A of the principal Act, as the case may be;
- (c) the name of the political party (if any) for which the candidate is standing at the election, in the official languages;

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- (d) where the photograph of the candidate is included on the ballot papers for the election under section 40A(1) of the principal Act, that photograph;
 - (e) where the photograph of the candidate is not included on the ballot papers for the election (by reason of non-compliance with section 40A(1) of the principal Act), a note that there is no photograph for the candidate.
- (4) In a direction mentioned in paragraph (1), the names of the candidates at the election must be arranged in the same order as they are required to be arranged on the ballot papers for the election under regulation 9(2)(a).

Other logistics

12.—(1) For a special polling station established at any boarding premises with respect to which no mobile polling determination is made —

- (a) the station consists of such premises or such area within the boarding premises as are demarcated by or under the authority of the Returning Officer to be the special polling station before the poll opens at the special polling station; and
 - (b) the manner in which the facilities for the stay order electors allotted to vote in person at that polling station may be distributed among the stay order electors is to be determined by the Assistant Returning Officer assigned to the special polling station or any presiding officer at that special polling station authorised by the Assistant Returning Officer to do so.
- (2) For a special polling station established at any boarding premises with respect to which a mobile polling determination is made, the route to be taken to visit places of accommodation in the boarding premises fixed under regulation 29(1)(a) is to be determined by the Assistant Returning Officer who is the leader of the mobile polling team appointed for the special polling station.

Who may be present at special polling station

13.—(1) During the voting hours on the polling day when a poll is held at a special polling station with respect to which no mobile polling determination is made, the only persons who may be present at the special polling station are as follows, subject to the taking of an oath of secrecy under section 56(1) of the principal Act:

- (a) an Assistant Returning Officer assigned to the special polling station;
- (b) the presiding officers, police officers on duty and other persons officially employed by the Returning Officer at the special polling station;
- (c) the candidates at the election or elections;
- (d) not more than the following number of polling agents at any time:
 - (i) one polling agent for each political party contesting the election or, where the poll is at a general election, the general election;
 - (ii) one polling agent for each independent candidate or group of independent candidates (as the case may be) contesting the election or, where the poll is at a general election, the general election,

provided that the polling agent's name and appointment has been notified in accordance with regulation 14 and regulation 15(4) is complied with;

- (e) the Returning Officer;
- (f) any other person whom the Returning Officer authorises to be present.

(2) During the voting hours of mobile polling on the polling day when a poll is held at a special polling station with respect to which a mobile polling determination is made, the only persons who may be present during mobile polling at the special polling station are as follows, subject to the taking of an oath of secrecy under section 56(1) of the principal Act:

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- (a) the Assistant Returning Officer who is the leader of the mobile polling team;
 - (b) the members of the mobile polling team;
 - (c) the candidates at the election;
 - (d) not more than the following number of polling agents at any time:
 - (i) one polling agent for each political party contesting the election or, where the poll is at a general election, the general election;
 - (ii) one polling agent for each independent candidate or group of independent candidates (as the case may be) contesting the election or, where the poll is at a general election, the general election,provided that the polling agent's name and appointment has been notified in accordance with regulation 14 and regulation 15(4) is complied with;
 - (e) the Returning Officer;
 - (f) any other person whom the Returning Officer authorises to be present.

Division 4 — Polling agents

Advance notice of polling agents at special polling station

14.—(1) Before any polling agent of a candidate or group of candidates may be admitted to a special polling station or allowed to be present during mobile polling at a special polling station, his or her name and appointment to act as such a polling agent in the special polling station must be given in writing to the Returning Officer, by either —

- (a) the election agent of the relevant independent candidate, or the principal election agent of the relevant group of independent candidates (as the case may be) contesting the election or, where the poll is at a general election, the general election; or

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- (b) the responsible officer of the relevant political party contesting the election or, where the poll is at a general election, the general election.

(2) Any polling agent who is appointed by the responsible officer of a political party is, for the purposes of these Regulations, treated as the polling agent of each candidate and each group of candidates standing for that political party.

Conduct of polling agents in special polling station

15.—(1) A polling agent of a candidate or group of candidates may during the voting hours of a poll at a special polling station examine the list of stay order electors allotted to vote at that special polling station, provided that the polling agent does not delay a voter in casting his or her vote.

(2) A polling agent of a candidate or group of candidates must not use any communications device at a special polling station during voting hours of a poll at that special polling station.

(3) The non-attendance of any polling agent of a candidate or group of candidates at a special polling station at any time does not in any way invalidate any act or thing done during the absence of the polling agent if the act or thing is otherwise duly done.

(4) Before a polling agent of a candidate or group of candidates can be admitted to a special polling station, the polling agent must deliver to a presiding officer at the special polling station his or her oath of secrecy made under section 56(1) of the principal Act together with his or her written appointment from —

- (a) the election agent of the relevant independent candidate, or the principal election agent of the relevant group of independent candidates, as the case may be; or
- (b) the responsible officer of the relevant political party.

PART 3
SPECIAL POLLING STATIONS
WITHOUT MOBILE POLLING

Application of this Part

16. This Part applies only to and in relation to polling at a special polling station in respect of which no mobile polling determination is made.

Voting in person

17. A stay order elector who is allotted to vote at a special polling station at a poll for an election must record his or her vote at the election in person.

Hours of voting

18. The hours of voting at a poll held at a special polling station for an election in respect of which a notice of contested election is published are the hours specified in —

- (a) the notice of contested election published under section 34(6) or 34A(6) of the principal Act in respect of that special polling station; or
- (b) the notice published under section 5(4) or (5) of the Act in respect of that special polling station.

Start of polling: examining and sealing ballot boxes

19.—(1) Immediately before the start of polling at a poll held at a special polling station, a presiding officer assigned to that special polling station must, in full view of the candidates or their polling agents who are present in the special polling station —

- (a) show that each ballot box to be used at the start of the poll is empty;
- (b) close the ballot box;
- (c) ensure that the ballot box is sealed with the seals provided by the Returning Officer or locked in such a manner as to

prevent it being opened without breaking the seal or lock;
and

- (d) place the sealed or locked ballot box on a table in full view of all present and ensure that the box remains there until the close of the poll at the special polling station.

(2) The ballot boxes, after being sealed or locked in accordance with paragraph (1), must be kept in the view of the presiding officer of the special polling station for the receipt of ballot papers and must not be opened again until after the close of the poll and in accordance with Part 5.

(3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) apply to every ballot box used during a poll held at a special polling station and it is sufficient compliance with those paragraphs if a ballot box, other than a ballot box used at the start of the poll, is shown and sealed or locked in accordance with paragraph (1) before it is used.

(4) Immediately after the ballot box is sealed or locked in accordance with paragraph (1), the Assistant Returning Officer must call on the stay order electors to vote.

Electors not to be impeded

20.—(1) Subject to safe management measures prescribed in Part 6, the presiding officers assigned to a special polling station must ensure that every stay order elector entitled to vote at that special polling station is admitted to that special polling station.

(2) A presiding officer may, if he or she considers it advisable, direct that not more than one voter for each voting compartment may at any time enter the room where the voting is held.

Stay order elector to declare name, etc.

21.—(1) On arriving at any special polling station intending to vote at the poll held there, every stay order elector —

- (a) must give his or her name to the presiding officer; and
(b) must, on request, give his or her name to a polling agent of the candidate.

(2) An Assistant Returning Officer, a presiding officer, candidate or candidate's polling agent who has doubts concerning the identity of any individual intending to vote may request that the individual show satisfactory proof of his or her identity (including by removing his or her mask temporarily) and if the Assistant Returning Officer or a presiding officer considers necessary, require the individual to make and subscribe to the declaration referred to in section 44(1) of the principal Act.

(3) An individual who refuses —

(a) to show satisfactory proof of identity;

(b) to make any declaration required by the principal Act or these Regulations; or

(c) to reply to a question regarding his or her entitlement to vote at any special polling station,

must not receive a ballot paper or be admitted to vote or be again admitted to the special polling station.

(4) Section 44(4) of the principal Act applies to a declaration made under paragraph (2) subject to the modification that the reference to a declaration in that section is a reference to a declaration required under that paragraph.

Delivery of ballot paper

22.—(1) Upon a voter arriving at a special polling station and giving his or her name to a presiding officer at that special polling station, the presiding officer must ascertain if the number, name and description of the voter appear on the list of stay order electors for that special polling station.

(2) If the number, name and description of the voter appear on the list of stay order electors for that special polling station, the following procedures must be observed before delivering any ballot paper to him or her:

(a) a presiding officer must call out the name, number and the electoral division and polling district code of the voter as stated in the list of stay order electors for that special polling station;

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- (b) the number of the elector as stated in the list of stay order electors for that special polling station must be marked on the counterfoil of the ballot paper;
 - (c) a mark must be placed by a presiding officer in that list of stay order electors for that special polling station against the number of the elector to denote that the voter has received a ballot paper but without showing the particular ballot paper which he or she has received;
 - (d) unless the complete official mark has already been pre-printed or affixed to the ballot paper, a presiding officer must either initial the ballot paper or affix, stamp or mark (by writing or otherwise) the ballot paper in the approved manner with the official mark (or the remaining part thereof) for the authentication of the ballot paper.

(3) Subject to regulation 25, every stay order elector who is admitted to vote at a special polling station must be given not more than one ballot paper, which must be given by a presiding officer, and no other.

Manner of voting

23.—(1) A stay order elector must, after receiving a ballot paper —

- (a) subject to regulation 25, proceed alone directly to such voting compartment as may be indicated by a presiding officer or by any person acting under that officer's authority;
- (b) subject to paragraph (2), secretly mark the ballot paper as near as may be in accordance with the directions given for the guidance of voters under regulation 11;
- (c) fold the ballot paper so as to conceal his or her vote; and
- (d) put the ballot paper into the ballot box.

(2) The stay order elector's mark on the ballot paper must be made in the area demarcated on the ballot paper for that purpose, and not elsewhere.

(3) Every voter must vote without delay and leave the special polling station as soon as he or she has put his or her ballot paper into the ballot box.

(4) A presiding officer may, at any time while a poll at a special polling station is proceeding, take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that no voter delays unduly in any voting compartment reserved for the marking of ballot papers.

Elector in whose name another has voted

24.—(1) If an individual asks for a ballot paper at a special polling station after someone else has voted under that individual's name, and the name of the individual appears on the list of stay order electors for that special polling station, that individual is entitled to receive a tendered ballot paper and to vote in the same manner as other voters, after he or she —

(a) takes the oath of identity in Form 16 in the First Schedule to the principal Act; and

(b) satisfies a presiding officer as to his or her identity and entitlement to vote at that special polling station.

(2) A tendered ballot paper must be of a colour different from the other ballot papers used at a poll at special polling stations.

(3) A tendered ballot paper must, before being placed in a ballot box, be endorsed by a presiding officer with the name of the voter and his or her number in the list of stay order electors, and that number must be entered on a separate list (called in these Regulations the tendered votes list).

(4) The tendered ballot papers referred to in this regulation must be dealt with in the same manner as prescribed in regulation 39(3) and the principal Act for tendered ballot papers.

Spoilt ballot papers, etc.

25.—(1) If a voter in a special polling station has inadvertently handled a ballot paper in such a manner that it cannot be used, the voter must return it to the Assistant Returning Officer or presiding

officer who must, on being satisfied that the ballot paper has been so inadvertently handled —

- (a) mark the ballot paper as a spoilt ballot paper and cancel it;
- (b) place the ballot paper in the envelope supplied for the purpose; and
- (c) subject to paragraph (2), give the voter another ballot paper.

(2) A voter must not be given more than one other ballot paper under paragraph (1)(c).

Assistance for blind, etc., voters

26.—(1) A presiding officer at a special polling station or any individual authorised by such a presiding officer may —

- (a) ask any voter at the special polling station if the voter understands the method of voting in accordance with the principal Act, the Act and these Regulations; and
- (b) if he or she thinks fit, on the application of any voter, explain to the voter, in the presence of the polling agents of the candidates if present, the method of voting in accordance with the principal Act, the Act and these Regulations; but in so doing he or she must carefully abstain from any action which might be construed by the voter as advice or a direction to vote for any candidate or political party.

(2) A presiding officer at a special polling station must, on request by a voter who is unable to vote in the manner prescribed by the principal Act, the Act or these Regulations because the voter is incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause, assist the voter —

- (a) by marking the voter's choice on the ballot paper in accordance with the directions given for the guidance of voters under regulation 11;
- (b) by folding the ballot paper so as to conceal the voter's vote; and
- (c) by putting the ballot paper into the ballot box.

Electors present at close of voting hours allowed to vote

27. A ballot paper must not be delivered to a voter at a special polling station after the hour fixed for the closing of the poll at that special polling station, except that if at that hour there is in the special polling station any voter to whom a ballot paper has been delivered, the voter must be allowed to record his or her vote.

PART 4**SPECIAL POLLING STATIONS WITH MOBILE POLLING****Application of this Part**

28. This Part applies only to and in relation to polling at a special polling station in respect of which a mobile polling determination is made.

Mobile polling visiting times, etc.

29.—(1) After a mobile polling determination is made with respect to a special polling station established at a boarding premises, the Returning Officer must, as soon as practicable and not later than 30 minutes before the start of the voting hours on the polling day when a poll is held at the special polling station —

- (a) fix the places of accommodation in the boarding premises that each mobile polling team appointed for any special polling station must visit for the purposes of taking votes in accordance with this Part from stay order electors entitled to vote at the poll using the mobile polling team;
- (b) fix the approximate times (which ordinarily should not range more than 2 hours) when the mobile polling team will visit each place of accommodation fixed under sub-paragraph (a); and
- (c) give notice to each of the stay order electors entitled to be served by the mobile polling team in a way that is reasonable in the circumstances, the approximate time when the mobile polling team will visit for the purposes of taking the elector's vote in accordance with this Part.

(2) The approximate time fixed under paragraph (1)(b) must fall within the voting hours on the polling day when the poll is held at the special polling station.

(3) In addition to paragraph (1), where a supplementary list of stay order electors or a supplementary list of mobile polling electors containing additional stay order electors is prepared and certified for a special polling station established at a boarding premises with respect to which a mobile polling determination is made, the Returning Officer must without delay —

- (a) fix the places of accommodation in the boarding premises of those additional stay order electors that each mobile polling team appointed must visit for the purposes of taking votes in accordance with this Part from the additional stay order electors;
- (b) fix the approximate times when the mobile polling team will visit each place of accommodation fixed under sub-paragraph (a); and
- (c) give notice to each of the additional stay order electors entitled to be served by the mobile polling team in a way that is reasonable in the circumstances, the approximate time when the mobile polling team will visit for the purposes of taking the elector's vote in accordance with this Part.

(4) At any time when a mobile polling team is at a place of accommodation in a boarding premises at which a special polling station is established for the purposes of taking votes in accordance with this Part —

- (a) for purposes of, and in connection with, the taking of votes under this Part —
 - (i) the place of accommodation is deemed to be a polling place; and
 - (ii) the leader and every member of the mobile polling team are deemed to be the presiding officer at that polling place; and

- (b) so far as is practicable, a vote under this Part must be taken as if it were taken under the other provisions of the principal Act.

(5) However, any failure by a mobile polling team to make a visit to a stay order elector at his or her place of accommodation to take his or her vote for an election in accordance with this Part does not in itself invalidate the result of the election.

Mobile polling team composition

30.—(1) After a mobile polling determination is made with respect to a special polling station established at a boarding premises and at which a poll must be held, then subject to this regulation, the Returning Officer must appoint —

- (a) 2 or more individuals to be members of a mobile polling team for the purposes of taking votes in accordance with this Part of stay order electors allotted to the special polling station; and
- (b) in respect of each team, an Assistant Returning Officer to be the leader of that mobile polling team whose duty is to exercise general supervision over the other members of the team, and over all arrangements for the conduct of the poll in accordance with this Part, at that special polling station.

(2) An individual must not be appointed under paragraph (1) unless the individual is also eligible to be appointed under section 36(1) of the principal Act as a presiding officer for a polling station in Singapore.

Start of mobile polling: examining and sealing ballot boxes

31.—(1) Immediately before the start of voting hours on the polling day when a poll is held at a special polling station established at a boarding premises, a mobile polling team officer appointed for that special polling station must, in full view of the candidates or their polling agents who are present in the special polling station —

- (a) show that each ballot box to be used at the start of the mobile polling is empty;

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- (b) close the ballot box;
 - (c) ensure that the ballot box is sealed with the seals provided by the Returning Officer or locked in such a manner as to prevent it being opened without breaking the seal or lock; and
 - (d) carry the sealed or locked ballot box in full view of all polling agents present to the respective places of accommodation in the boarding premises, and ensure that the box remains sealed or locked until the mobile polling at that special polling station closes.

(2) The ballot boxes, after being sealed or locked in accordance with paragraph (1), must not be opened again until after the close of the poll and in accordance with Part 5.

(3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) apply to every ballot box used during mobile polling at a special polling station, and it is sufficient compliance with those paragraphs if a ballot box, other than a ballot box used at the start of the mobile polling, is shown and sealed or locked in accordance with paragraph (1) before it is used.

(4) Immediately after the ballot box is sealed or locked in accordance with paragraph (1), the Assistant Returning Officer who is the leader of the mobile polling team must deploy that box for use in mobile polling.

Mobile polling procedure

32.—(1) When visiting a stay order elector at his or her place of accommodation in a boarding premises at which a special polling station is established, the mobile polling team must —

- (a) have ballot boxes, ballot papers and such other things as are necessary for the votes of stay order electors to be taken at the place of accommodation;
- (b) take to the stay order elector ballot papers and such other things necessary to enable the stay order elector to vote; and
- (c) be accompanied by such polling agents (if any) who wish to attend.

(2) The following requirements for mobile polling at a poll for an election in an electoral division must be substantially observed by the mobile polling team for a special polling station when they arrive at each place of accommodation of a stay order elector in the boarding premises at which the special polling station is established:

- (a) the visit to the stay order elector must be made at or around the time on the polling day fixed under regulation 29(1)(b) for that elector;
- (b) a member of the mobile polling team must, remaining outside of the place of accommodation —
 - (i) announce the arrival of the mobile polling team to take the vote of the stay order elector; and
 - (ii) require the stay order elector and any other occupants to wear a mask, open the door to the place of accommodation and stand at least 2 metres away from the door opening; and
 - (iii) require the stay order elector, or sequentially require each stay order elector if more than one, to identify himself or herself by calling out his or her NRIC number and name loudly so as to be audible to the mobile polling team, and to remove his or her mask as to allow his or her face to be visible to the mobile polling team;
- (c) a mobile polling team officer must ascertain if the NRIC number and name of the stay order elector appear on the list of mobile polling electors for that special polling station;
- (d) if the NRIC number and name appear on the list of mobile polling electors for that special polling station, the following procedures must be observed before delivering any ballot paper to the voter:
 - (i) a mobile polling team officer must call out the name, number and the electoral division and polling district code of the voter as stated in that list of mobile polling electors;

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- (ii) the number of the elector as stated in that list of mobile polling electors for that special polling station must be marked on the counterfoil of the ballot paper to be used for an election in that electoral division;
 - (iii) unless the complete official mark has already been pre-printed or affixed to the ballot paper to be used for an election in that electoral division, a mobile polling team officer must either initial the ballot paper or affix, stamp or mark (by writing or otherwise) the ballot paper in the approved manner with the official mark (or the remaining part thereof) for the authentication of the ballot paper;
- (e) a mobile polling team officer must then —
- (i) fold in 2 the authenticated ballot paper mentioned in sub-paragraph (d)(iii) unmarked, ensuring that the ballot paper number on the counterfoil matches the folded ballot paper number at the back;
 - (ii) hand that ballot paper directly to the stay order elector at the place of accommodation, taking all reasonably practicable means to minimise physical interaction between them; and
 - (iii) place a mark in that list of mobile polling electors for that special polling station against the number of the elector to denote that he or she has received a ballot paper but without showing the particular ballot paper which he or she has received;
- (f) a mobile polling team officer may —
- (i) ascertain whether the stay order elector understands the method of voting in accordance with this Part; and
 - (ii) if the mobile polling team officer thinks fit, on the application of the elector, explain to the elector, in the presence of the polling agents of the candidates if present, the method of voting in accordance with this

Part, carefully abstaining from any conduct which might be construed by the elector as advice or a direction to vote for any particular candidate or group of candidates;

- (g) at least 2 mobile polling team officers must wait outside the place of accommodation until the stay order elector indicates that he or she has completed voting on the ballot paper in accordance with regulation 33;
- (h) a mobile polling team officer must without delay then extend the ballot box for the stay order elector to place the ballot paper into the ballot box, taking all reasonably practicable means to minimise physical interaction between them, before proceeding to the next place of accommodation.

(3) However, a mobile polling team who, after observing paragraph (2)(a) and (b) with respect to a place of accommodation —

- (a) has no response from the occupant of the place of accommodation after waiting outside for a reasonable period; or
- (b) receives a response from the occupant of the place of accommodation either to the effect that he or she does not want to vote or does not wish to open the door,

may then proceed to the next place of accommodation fixed under regulation 29(1)(a).

- (4) Subject to regulation 33(3), the mobile polling team must —
- (a) remain outside a stay order elector's place of accommodation when taking the elector's vote; and
 - (b) maintain a substantially unobstructed line of sight of the stay order elector after the elector is handed the ballot paper under paragraph (2)(e).

Manner of voting

33.—(1) Immediately after receiving a ballot paper for an election under regulation 32(2)(e), the stay order elector must without delay,

without leaving his or her place of accommodation and without closing the door to the place of accommodation, do the following:

- (a) unfold the ballot paper;
- (b) secretly mark the ballot paper as near as may be in accordance with the direction for the guidance of stay order electors under regulation 11;
- (c) re-fold the ballot paper so as to conceal his or her vote;
- (d) indicate by word or action to the mobile polling team outside the place of accommodation that he or she has completed voting;
- (e) insert the folded ballot paper into the sealed ballot box provided by a member of the mobile polling team for that purpose, taking all reasonably practicable means to minimise physical interaction between them.

(2) The stay order elector's mark on the ballot paper must be made in the area demarcated on the ballot paper for that purpose, and not elsewhere.

(3) Regulations 24, 25 and 26 apply to a stay order elector whose vote is cast using mobile polling with the necessary modifications.

Electors present at close of voting hours allowed to vote

34.—(1) The mobile polling team at a special polling station must not, after the hour fixed for the closing of the poll at that special polling station, continue with mobile polling.

(2) However, if at the hour fixed for the closing of the poll at a special polling station, a ballot paper has been delivered at a place of accommodation to a stay order elector who has not yet indicated that he or she has finished voting in accordance with regulation 33(1)(d), the elector must be allowed to record his or her vote and place that ballot paper accordingly into the ballot box.

End of last visit in mobile polling

35. At the end of the last visit made by a mobile polling team for the purposes of this Part, the leader must, in the presence of a member of

his or her team and any polling agents who may be in attendance, publicly close, fasten, seal and take charge of each ballot box used by the leader for the purposes of this Part.

PART 5

SPECIAL POLLING STATIONS: CLOSE OF POLL AND COUNTING

Modification of section 48 of principal Act: closing of poll

36.—(1) As soon as practicable after the close of the poll at a special polling station, every presiding officer of each special polling station must, in the presence of such of the candidates and their polling agents as are present, make up into separate packets, sealed with the presiding officer's own seal and the seals of the candidates or their agents if they desire to affix their seals —

- (a) the unused and spoilt ballot papers placed together;
- (b) the marked list of stay order electors or list of mobile polling electors (as the case may be) for that special polling station;
- (c) the counterfoils of the ballot papers; and
- (d) the tendered votes list.

(2) All ballot box or boxes within the special polling station must remain unopened and must be secured by the Assistant Returning Officer and sealed with —

- (a) the seal supplied by the Returning Officer; and
- (b) the seals of such of the candidates or their polling agents as are present and who wish to affix their seals,

in such manner that the box or boxes cannot be opened and nothing can be inserted therein without breaking the seals.

(3) The Assistant Returning Officer in charge of a special polling station must without delay despatch every packet referred to in paragraph (1) and the sealed ballot box or boxes in safe custody to the Returning Officer by such means approved by the Returning Officer.

Counting place for votes cast at special polling stations

37. The votes cast at all special polling stations must be counted at such place in Singapore as the Returning Officer directs in a notice under section 6(2)(g) of the Act.

Opening of ballot boxes from special polling stations

38.—(1) The Returning Officer must ensure that every ballot box from a special polling station in an election is kept in safe custody and is not opened until the counting, at the counting place directed in a notice under section 6(2)(g) of the Act, of the votes cast at the special polling stations in the election.

(2) Before the Returning Officer proceeds to count the votes, the Returning Officer or a person authorised by him or her must carry out the following in the presence of such of the candidates and their counting agents attending at the counting place directed in a notice under section 6(2)(g) of the Act:

- (a) arrange all the ballot boxes received according to their special polling stations;
- (b) open every ballot box from each special polling station that is received;
- (c) remove the ballot papers from within the opened ballot boxes.

Counting

39.—(1) The Returning Officer or a person authorised by him or her must —

- (a) mix together all ballot papers from the opened ballot boxes and sort the ballot papers according to electoral divisions; and
- (b) then unfold the ballot papers and count the ballot papers (except tendered ballot papers), keeping the ballot papers with their faces upwards, and taking all proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing the serial numbers printed on the back of the ballot papers.

(2) The Returning Officer and all persons authorised by him or her must, so far as practicable, proceed continuously with counting the votes and must endorse “rejected” on any ballot paper which he or she may reject as invalid in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act.

(3) The Returning Officer and all persons authorised by him or her —

- (a) must not count the tendered ballot papers but place them in separate packets according to the candidate or group of candidates whom they support; and
- (b) must mark each packet with the name of the candidate or group of candidates and seal the packet and retain it unless it is required for the purposes of an application under section 90 of the principal Act.

(4) Immediately after the counting of votes cast at special polling stations is completed at the counting place for an electoral division, the Returning Officer or a person authorised by him or her must —

- (a) announce to the candidates or their counting agents attending, the number of votes given to each candidate or group of candidates at the poll for that electoral division;
- (b) prepare a record in a form approved by the Returning Officer, containing the number of votes given to each candidate or group of candidates and other results of the counting of votes at the counting place, and certify that record;
- (c) transmit to the principal counting place for that electoral division, by any means available, the results of the counting of votes at that counting place; and
- (d) seal up in an envelope the record of counting and despatch or deliver the envelope in safe custody to the principal counting place for that electoral division.

(5) For the purposes of sections 49 and 49B of the principal Act, and in connection with the counting of votes under this Part, the counting place directed for the counting of votes cast at special

polling stations is deemed to be a counting place specified for every electoral division for which a poll is conducted.

PART 6

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR POLLING

Voting hour for unwell voters, etc.

40.—(1) If an elector is —

- (a) febrile; or
- (b) subject to a requirement under the Stay Order Regulations to not leave his or her place of accommodation other than because of a COVID 19 stay order to not leave a boarding premises,

the elector's voting hour is, despite section 39(3) of the principal Act, the period —

- (c) starting at 7 p.m. of the day for a poll held at the polling station; and
- (d) ending at 8 p.m. of that same day.

(2) An elector described in paragraph (1)(a) or (b) must not attend at a polling station to vote before 7 p.m. on the polling day for a poll held at the polling station; and it is lawful for a presiding officer at the polling station —

- (a) to refuse the elector admission into that polling station to vote until the start of the period in paragraph (1)(c); and
- (b) to require the elector to return to the polling station only in the period in paragraph (1)(c) and (d) to vote.

(3) For the purposes of this regulation, an elector is treated as febrile if, upon a presiding officer taking the elector's body temperature at the entrance of a polling station, the elector has a body temperature that is 37.5 degrees Celsius or higher.

(4) This regulation does not apply to a stay order elector who is allotted to vote at a special polling station in Singapore, but does

apply with respect to overseas electors voting at an overseas polling station.

Masks must be worn

41.—(1) All individuals within a polling station in Singapore or an overseas polling station on the day a poll is held at that station must wear a mask at all times except —

- (a) when lawfully required under regulation 21(2) or 32(2)(b) to remove the mask temporarily for the purposes of ascertaining the individual's identity; or
- (b) if wearing a mask over the individual's nose and mouth leads to severe medical conditions for the individual and he or she is wearing a face shield instead.

(2) An individual mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) must wear a face shield when within a polling station.

Physical distance to be maintained

42. Every individual in a polling station in Singapore or an overseas polling station on the day a poll is held at that station must, as far as practicable, keep a distance of at least one metre from any other individual in that polling station.

Wearing of gloves

43. Every individual in a polling station in Singapore or an overseas polling station on the day a poll is held at that station must —

- (a) as far as practicable, wear any gloves provided by a presiding officer for the purpose of receiving a ballot paper for voting and of voting; and
- (b) dispose of those gloves according to the directions of the presiding officer, after he or she has completed voting.

Misconduct in polling station by not observing safe management measures

44.—(1) If an individual in any polling station in Singapore —

- (a) misconducts himself or herself in the polling station by intentionally breaching any requirement in this Part; or
- (b) fails to obey the lawful orders of the presiding officer to comply with the requirements of this Part,

the individual may immediately, by order of the presiding officer, be removed from the polling station by any police officer in or near that polling station or by any other person authorised in writing by the presiding officer or by the Returning Officer to remove the individual.

(2) The individual removed under paragraph (1) must not, unless with the permission of the presiding officer, again be allowed to enter the polling station.

Made on 1 July 2020.

LEO YIP
*Permanent Secretary,
Prime Minister's Office,
Singapore.*

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