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No. S 489

**PUBLIC ORDER ACT 2009
(ACT 15 OF 2009)**

**PUBLIC ORDER (EXEMPT ASSEMBLIES AND PROCESSIONS)
ORDER 2009**

ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS

Paragraph

1. Citation and commencement
 2. Exempt assemblies
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-

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 46 of the Public Order Act 2009, the Minister for Home Affairs hereby makes the following Order:

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Public Order (Exempt Assemblies and Processions) Order 2009 and shall come into operation on 9th October 2009.

Exempt assemblies

2. The public assemblies specified in the First Schedule are exempt from the requirements of section 5(1)(a) of the Act.

Exempt processions

3. The public processions specified in the Second Schedule are exempt from the requirements of section 5(1)(a) of the Act.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Paragraph 2

EXEMPT ASSEMBLIES

1. A public assembly held in the Botanic Gardens with the written permission of the National Parks Board.

2. A public assembly held in connection with a wedding or a funeral held —

(a) on any State land with the written permission of the Commissioner of Lands;

(b) on any part of the common property of a housing estate of the Housing and Development Board with the written permission of the Estates Officer of the Housing and Development Board or, where a Town Council is established under the Town Councils Act (Cap. 329A) constituted to control, manage, maintain and improve the common property of that housing estate, the written permission of that Town Council; or

(c) on any public road with the written permission of the chief executive of the Land Transport Authority of Singapore.

3. A public assembly held in connection with any sporting competition or activity (other than horse racing or dog racing) in a stadium, sports complex or other sporting facility that is open to the general public.

4.—(1) A public assembly (other than an election meeting within the meaning of the Public Order (Election Meetings and Processions in Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2009 (G.N. No. S 486/2009) or the Public Order (Election Meetings and Processions in Presidential Elections) Regulations 2017 (G.N. No. S 273/2017)) that is held wholly inside a building or other enclosed premises outside of the prohibited area, and —

(a) every organiser of which is a citizen of Singapore or a Singapore entity;

[S 558/2016 wef 01/11/2016]

(b) every individual giving a speech or lecture during the assembly (whether in person, through real-time transmission or a recording) is a citizen of Singapore;

[S 558/2016 wef 01/11/2016]

(c) the purpose of which is to demonstrate support for or opposition to the views or actions of any person, group of persons, to publicise a cause or campaign, or to mark or commemorate any event, without dealing with any matter which relates (directly or indirectly) to any religious belief or religion, or any matter which may cause feelings of enmity,

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

hatred, ill-will or hostility between different racial or religious groups in Singapore; and

- (d) during which an organiser thereof, or an authorised agent of such an organiser, is present at all times during the assembly.

[S 135/2011 wef 14/03/2011]

[S 261/2014 wef 01/04/2014]

[S 118/2016 wef 19/03/2016]

[S 558/2016 wef 01/11/2016]

[S 277/2017 wef 01/06/2017]

[S 493/2020 wef 26/06/2020]

- (2) In this item, unless the context otherwise requires —

“company” means a company incorporated in Singapore under the Companies Act (Cap. 50);

“real-time transmission”, in relation to the delivery of a speech or lecture at an assembly, means the simultaneous audio or visual transmission, through the Internet or other form of communication network, to the place of that assembly, of the speech or lecture being delivered at another place, including any reasonable period of delay, due to any technical or other reason, between the delivery of the speech or lecture and the audio or visual transmission of such delivery;

“recording” means any disc, magnetic tape or solid state recording device containing information by the use of which sound (whether or not accompanied by images) may be produced electronically;

“Singapore entity” means a Singapore-controlled corporation, a Singapore-controlled partnership or a Singapore-controlled unincorporated association;

“Singapore-controlled corporation” means a body corporate incorporated under any written law in Singapore —

(a) with a management body (whether called an executive or board of directors or otherwise), the majority of whose members (whether called directors, partners or otherwise) are citizens of Singapore; and

(b) with a majority of members who are citizens of Singapore or one or more Singapore entities or, in the case of a company having a share capital, the majority of whose shares are held by citizens of Singapore or one or more Singapore entities;

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

“Singapore-controlled partnership” means —

- (a) a partnership registered under the Business Names Registration Act 2014 (Act 29 of 2014) in Singapore, the majority of whose partners are citizens of Singapore or one or more Singapore entities; or
- (b) a limited partnership registered under the Limited Partnerships Act (Cap. 163B) in Singapore —
 - (i) the majority of whose general partners as defined in that Act are citizens of Singapore or one or more Singapore entities; and
 - (ii) the majority of whose limited partners as defined in that Act are citizens of Singapore or one or more Singapore entities;

“Singapore-controlled unincorporated association” means an unincorporated association formed in Singapore under any written law —

- (a) with a management body (whether called a committee or council or otherwise), the majority of whose officers are citizens of Singapore; and
- (b) the majority of whose members are citizens of Singapore or one or more Singapore entities.

[S 558/2016 wef 01/11/2016]

5. A public assembly in a place of public resort for the purpose for which the place is licensed under the Public Entertainments and Meetings Act (Cap. 257).

6. A public assembly held in connection with any public entertainment that is licensed under the Public Entertainments and Meetings Act.

7. A public assembly held solely for the purpose of any celebration of the Seventh Month Festival of the Chinese Lunar calendar —

- (a) which is held on any premises with the prior consent of the owner of those premises;
- (b) which will end not later than 10.30 p.m.;
- (c) which does not involve the installation, erection, removal or dismantling of any stage, shed or other structure between 11 p.m. of a day and 7 a.m. of the following day (both times inclusive);

[S 474/2015 wef 06/08/2015]

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (d) which will involve the use of not more than 4 loudspeakers, each of which must be positioned so that the loudspeakers face the audience and are inclined downwards;
[S 474/2015 wef 06/08/2015]
- (e) during which an organiser thereof, or an authorised agent of such an organiser, is present at all times during the assembly;
[S 474/2015 wef 06/08/2015]
- (f) which will only involve one or more of the following activities:
- (i) a “sing-song” <<歌台>> ;
 - (ii) an auction;
 - (iii) a dinner;
 - (iv) a prayer service;
 - (v) a performance of instrumental music;
 - (vi) a performance of classical music;
 - (vii) a performance of traditional puppetry or folk puppetry;
 - (viii) a performance of traditional opera or folk opera;
 - (ix) an activity organised by or with the authority of the organiser solely for the purpose of celebrating the Seventh Month Festival of the Chinese Lunar calendar;
[S 474/2015 wef 06/08/2015]
[S 376/2016 wef 29/07/2016]
- (g) during which no vulgar or obscene gesture or remark is made by any performer at the assembly;
[S 474/2015 wef 06/08/2015]
- (h) during which no vulgar or obscene song is sung by any performer at the assembly;
[S 474/2015 wef 06/08/2015]
- (i) during which no person on the stage or any other performance area is indecently attired;
[S 474/2015 wef 06/08/2015]
[S 376/2016 wef 29/07/2016]
- (j) during which the organiser of the assembly takes immediate steps to have any person who makes a vulgar or obscene gesture or remark, or sings a vulgar or obscene song, escorted off the stage or out of any other performance area;
[S 376/2016 wef 29/07/2016]

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

(k) during which no performer at the assembly mingles with the audience;
[S 474/2015 wef 06/08/2015]

(l) which is not organised by a person who has previously been convicted of any offence under the Act in relation to the organisation of any celebration of the Seventh Month Festival.

[S 474/2015 wef 06/08/2015]

[S 376/2016 wef 29/07/2016]

8. A public assembly held by or under the direction or control of the Government.

9.—(1) A public assembly of the description prescribed in sub-paragraph (2) held by or under the direction or control of —

(a) a body that is specified in the Schedule to the Accounting Standards Act (Cap. 2B); or

(b) a charity within the meaning of the Charities Act (Cap. 37) that is also approved as an institution of public character under that Act.

(2) A public assembly —

(a) the purpose of which is either to raise funds for the body or charity in sub-paragraph (1), or to promote sports, physical exercise or other recreational activity, but —

(i) without dealing with any matter which relates (directly or indirectly) to any religious belief or religion, or any matter which may cause feelings of enmity, hatred, ill-will or hostility between different racial or religious groups in Singapore; and

(ii) without glorifying the commission or preparation (whether in the past, in the future or generally) of acts of terrorism or any offence or otherwise having the effect of directly or indirectly encouraging or otherwise inducing members of the public to commit, prepare or instigate acts of terrorism or such an offence;

(b) the conduct of which does not require the closure of any public road or part thereof;

(c) which involves —

(i) no singing or playing of any radio or other musical equipment, any drum, cymbal, gong or other musical instrument; or

(ii) singing or playing of such musical equipment or musical instruments between 11 a.m. and 10.30 p.m. on any day (both times inclusive) only;

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (d) the conduct of which involves —
 - (i) no stage, shed or other structure; or
 - (ii) the installation, erection, removal and dismantling of a stage, shed or other structure in connection with the assembly outside of 11 p.m. of a day and 7 a.m. the following day (both times inclusive);
- (e) which is held on any premises with the prior consent of the owner of those premises;
- (f) during which no organiser and no participant of the assembly —
 - (i) uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaves in a threatening, abusive or insulting manner; or
 - (ii) dresses indecently, or disrobes or removes his clothes (except for the purpose of search by a police officer);
- (g) before, during and after which no organiser and no participant of the assembly displays or exhibits any banner, flag, poster, placard, photograph, film, sign, writing or other visible representation containing any violent, lewd or obscene material; and
- (h) during which an organiser thereof, or an authorised agent of such an organiser, is present at all times during the assembly.

10. A public assembly comprising wholly or partly of a workshop or lecture organised by The Esplanade Co. Ltd. in any place to which the public or any class of the public has access, whether gratuitously or otherwise.

11. A press conference in any public place.

12.—(1) A public assembly held on the day of nomination (except 30 June 2020) at an election under the Parliamentary Elections Act (Cap. 218) around a place of nomination for that election —

- (a) to show support —
 - (i) for any person or group of persons seeking nomination as a candidate or group of candidates at that election; or
 - (ii) for any candidate or group of candidates in that election at or about the time the Returning Officer or an Assistant Returning Officer is to declare a candidate or group of candidates to be elected under section 33(1) of that Act;
- (b) at which only placards, banners, flags, posters, photographs, signs, writings or other visible representations containing the image, symbol

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

or logo of any candidate or group of candidates at that election are displayed or exhibited after the close of nomination proceedings; and

- (c) before and during which no other placard, banner, flag, poster, photograph, film, sign, writing or other visible representation is displayed or exhibited.

[S 493/2020 wef 26/06/2020]

(2) In this item and item 13, “candidate”, “group”, “Returning Officer”, “Assistant Returning Officer”, “day of nomination” and “place of nomination” shall have the same meanings, respectively, as in the Parliamentary Elections Act (Cap. 218).

[S 135/2011 wef 14/03/2011]

13. A public assembly held on the day of nomination (except 30 June 2020) at an election under the Parliamentary Elections Act after the close of nomination proceedings at such part within a place of nomination for that election as the Returning Officer or an Assistant Returning Officer may designate —

- (a) comprising the following persons only:
- (i) the candidates in an election (whether contested or uncontested) under the Parliamentary Elections Act;
 - (ii) each candidate’s or group’s proposer, seconder and assentors;
 - (iii) the Returning Officer or any Assistant Returning Officer; and
 - (iv) any other person entitled under that Act to be present at the nomination proceedings at the place of nomination; and
- (b) at which speeches or addresses to a public assembly referred to in item 12(1) are made —
- (i) with the prior approval of the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer, as the case may be, by the following (and no others):
 - (A) in the case of an election in a group representation constituency — one or more candidates from the group of candidates declared to be elected under section 33(1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act or, in the case of a contested election, one or more candidates from each group of candidates standing for election, in the order determined by the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer, as the case may be; or
 - (B) in the case of an election in any other constituency — the candidate declared to be elected under section 33(1) of

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

the Parliamentary Elections Act (Cap. 218) or, in the case of a contested election, each candidate standing for election in the order determined by the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer, as the case may be;

- (ii) using such equipment as is authorised by the Returning Officer or an Assistant Returning Officer, as the case may be; and
- (iii) lasting not more than such duration for each candidate or, in the case of an election in a group representation constituency, for each group in total, as the Returning Officer or an Assistant Returning Officer may fix before the start of the speeches or addresses.

[S 135/2011 wef 14/03/2011]

[S 493/2020 wef 26/06/2020]

14.—(1) A public assembly held on nomination day at an election under the Presidential Elections Act (Cap. 240A) around a nomination place for that election —

(a) to show support —

- (i) for any person seeking nomination as a candidate at that election; or
- (ii) for any candidate in that election at or about the time the Returning Officer or an Assistant Returning Officer is to declare a candidate to be elected under section 15(1) of that Act;

(b) at which only placards, banners, flags, posters, photographs, signs, writings or other visible representations containing the image, symbol or logo of any candidate at that election are displayed or exhibited after the close of nomination proceedings; and

(c) before and during which no other placard, banner, flag, poster, photograph, film, sign, writing or other visible representation is displayed or exhibited.

(2) In this item and item 15, “candidate”, “Returning Officer”, “nomination day” and “nomination place” shall have the same meanings, respectively, as in the Presidential Elections Act.

[S 135/2011 wef 14/03/2011]

15. A public assembly held on nomination day at an election under the Presidential Elections Act after the close of nomination proceedings at such part within the nomination place for that election as the Returning Officer may designate —

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (a) comprising the following persons only:
- (i) the candidates in an election (whether contested or uncontested) under the Presidential Elections Act;
 - (ii) each candidate's proposer, seconder and assentors;
 - (iii) the Returning Officer; and
 - (iv) any other person entitled under that Act to be present at the nomination proceedings at the nomination place; and
- (b) at which speeches or addresses to a public assembly referred to in item 14(1) are made —
- (i) with the prior approval of the Returning Officer by the following (and no others):
 - (A) in the case of a contested election, each candidate standing for election in the order determined by the Returning Officer; or
 - (B) the candidate declared to be elected under section 15(1) of the Presidential Elections Act (Cap. 240A);
 - (ii) using such equipment as is authorised by the Returning Officer; and
 - (iii) lasting not more than such duration for each candidate as the Returning Officer may fix before the start of the speeches or addresses.

[S 135/2011 wef 14/03/2011]

16. A public assembly not wholly inside a building or other enclosed premises —

- (a) that is held primarily to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew;
- (b) that is organised by or under the direction of the People's Association;
- (c) that is held between 19 March 2016 and 31 March 2016 (both dates inclusive); and
- (d) during which the organiser provides crowd control measures that are necessary for the safety and wellbeing of persons attending the public assembly.

[S 118/2016 wef 19/03/2016]

17. A public assembly wholly inside a building or other enclosed premises and not comprising a talk or lecture, and —

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (a) that is held primarily to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew;
- (b) that is organised by or under the direction of the People's Association;
- (c) that is held between 19 March 2016 and 31 March 2016 (both dates inclusive); and
- (d) during which the organiser provides crowd control measures that are necessary for the safety and wellbeing of persons attending the public assembly.

[S 118/2016 wef 19/03/2016]

SECOND SCHEDULE

Paragraph 3

EXEMPT PROCESSIONS

1. A public procession held in connection with a wedding or a funeral (other than one in any prohibited area) —

- (a) during which an organiser thereof is present at the assembly area and accompanies the procession at all times until the procession stops or the participants disperse, whichever is the later;
- (b) which is held between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10.30 p.m. and does not exceed 30 minutes;
- (c) the route of which does not exceed 100 metres;
- (d) which involves not more than 150 participants;
- (e) which involves none of the following:
 - (i) the display or exhibition of any placard, banner or poster;
 - (ii) the use of any public address system;
 - (iii) stilt-walking;
 - (iv) soliciting sponsorship or monetary contributions along the route of the procession;
- (f) the conduct of which occupies not more than one lane of any public road and during which a reasonable number of persons will be deployed to manage traffic and ensure the safety of participants in the procession; and

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (g) the conduct of which does not cause or result in obstruction or inconvenience on any public road, bridge, landing place, or in any other public place.
2. A public procession held in connection with any sporting competition or activity (other than horse racing or dog racing) in a stadium, sports complex or other sporting facility that is open to the general public.
3. A public procession held by or under the direction or control of the Government.
- 4.—(1) A public procession of the description prescribed in sub-paragraph (2) held by or under the direction or control of —
- (a) a body that is specified in the Schedule to the Accounting Standards Act (Cap. 2B); or
 - (b) a charity within the meaning of the Charities Act (Cap. 37) that is also approved as an institution of public character under that Act.
- (2) A public procession —
- (a) the purpose of which is either to raise funds for the body or charity in sub-paragraph (1), or to promote sports, physical exercise or other recreational activity, but —
 - (i) without dealing (directly or indirectly) with any matters of race, religion or religious belief in a manner that is likely to cause feelings of enmity, hatred, ill-will or hostility between different racial and religious groups in Singapore; and
 - (ii) without glorifying the commission or preparation (whether in the past, in the future or generally) of acts of terrorism or any offence or otherwise having the effect of directly or indirectly encouraging or otherwise inducing members of the public to commit, prepare or instigate acts of terrorism or such an offence;
 - (b) which involves none of the following:
 - (i) the display or exhibition of any placard, banner, flag, poster, photograph, film, sign, writing or other visible representation;
 - (ii) singing or use of loudspeakers;
 - (iii) the playing of any radio or other musical equipment, or any drum, cymbal, gong or other musical instrument; and
 - (iv) the use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaves in a threatening, abusive or insulting manner;

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (c) the conduct of which does not require the closure of any public road or part thereof;
- (d) the conduct of which involves —
 - (i) no stage, shed or other structure; or
 - (ii) the installation, erection, removal and dismantling of a stage, shed or other structure in connection with the procession only between 11 p.m. of a day and 7 a.m. the following day (both times inclusive);
- (e) which is held on any premises with the prior consent of the owner of those premises; and
- (f) during which an organiser thereof, or an authorised agent of such an organiser, is present at all times during the procession.

5.—(1) A public procession on the day of nomination (except 30 June 2020) at an election under the Parliamentary Elections Act (Cap. 218) —

- (a) comprising one or more persons moving substantially as a body of persons in succession starting —
 - (i) before the close of nomination proceedings and from a place of assembly within the fenced compound around a place of nomination for that election, and proceeding by a common route within that compound;
 - (ii) before the close of nomination proceedings and from a place of assembly outside the fenced compound around a place of nomination for that election, and proceeding by a common route that is the nearest route (ordinarily about 200 metres) used to travel to an entrance or exit of that compound; or
 - (iii) after the close of nomination proceedings and from the fenced compound around a place of nomination for that election, and proceeding by a common route that is the nearest route (ordinarily about 200 metres) to any place outside that compound;
- (b) the purpose of which is to show support —
 - (i) for any person or group of persons seeking nomination as a candidate or group of candidates at that election; or
 - (ii) for any candidate or group of candidates in that election at or about the time the Returning Officer or an Assistant Returning

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

Officer declares or is to declare a candidate or group of candidates to be elected under section 33(1) of that Act;

- (c) before, during and after which none of the following is carried out by any organiser or participant of the procession:
- (i) the display or exhibition of any placard, banner, flag, poster, photograph, film, sign, writing or other visible representation;
 - (ii) singing; or the playing of any radio or other musical equipment, any drum, cymbal, gong or other musical instrument;
 - (iii) the playing of any radio or other musical equipment, any drum, cymbal, gong or other musical instrument;
 - (iv) the shouting of any slogan, jingle or other advertising technique designed to have, or likely to have, the effect of promoting a political party, candidate or person seeking nomination as a candidate at that election instead of communicating a factual message;
 - (v) the use of any loudspeaker; and
 - (vi) the use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour that is threatening, abusive or insulting;
- (d) at which no organiser or participant of the procession, from the first assembly of the procession to the time it disbands, stops anywhere to make a speech or give an interview; and
- (e) the conduct of which does not cause or result in obstruction or inconvenience on any public road, bridge, landing place, or in any other public place.

[S 493/2020 wef 26/06/2020]

(2) In this item, “candidate”, “group”, “Returning Officer”, “Assistant Returning Officer”, “day of nomination” and “place of nomination” shall have the same meanings, respectively, as in the Parliamentary Elections Act (Cap. 218).

[S 135/2011 wef 14/03/2011]

6.—(1) A public procession on nomination day at an election under the Presidential Elections Act (Cap. 240A) —

- (a) comprising one or more persons moving substantially as a body of persons in succession starting —
- (i) before the close of nomination proceedings and from a place of assembly within the fenced compound around a nomination

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

- place for that election, and proceeding by a common route within that compound;
- (ii) before the close of nomination proceedings and from a place of assembly outside the fenced compound around a nomination place for that election, and proceeding by a common route that is the nearest route (ordinarily about 200 metres) used to travel to an entrance or exit of that compound; or
 - (iii) after the close of nomination proceedings and from the fenced compound around a nomination place for that election, and proceeding by a common route that is the nearest route (ordinarily about 200 metres) to any place outside that compound;
- (b) the purpose of which is to show support —
- (i) for any person seeking nomination as a candidate at that election; or
 - (ii) for any candidate in an election at or about the time the Returning Officer is to declare a candidate to be elected to the office of President under section 15(1) of that Act;
- (c) before, during and after which none of the following is carried out by any organiser or participant of the procession:
- (i) the display or exhibition of any placard, banner, flag, poster, photograph, film, sign, writing or other visible representation;
 - (ii) singing; or the playing of any radio or other musical equipment, any drum, cymbal, gong or other musical instrument;
 - (iii) the playing of any radio or other musical equipment, any drum, cymbal, gong or other musical instrument;
 - (iv) the shouting of any slogan, jingle or other advertising technique designed to have, or likely to have, the effect of promoting a candidate or person seeking nomination as a candidate at that election instead of communicating a factual message;
 - (v) the use of any loudspeaker; and
 - (vi) the use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour that is threatening, abusive or insulting;

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (d) at which no organiser or participant of the procession, from the first assembly of the procession to the time it disbands, stops anywhere to make a speech or give an interview; and
- (e) the conduct of which does not cause or result in obstruction or inconvenience on any public road, bridge, landing place, or in any other public place.

(2) In this item, “candidate”, “Returning Officer”, “nomination day” and “nomination place” shall have the same meanings, respectively, as in the Presidential Elections Act (Cap. 240A).

[S 135/2011 wef 14/03/2011]

7. A public procession —

- (a) that is held primarily to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew;
- (b) that is organised by or under the direction of the People’s Association;
- (c) that is held between 19 March 2016 and 31 March 2016 (both dates inclusive); and
- (d) during which the organiser provides crowd control measures that are necessary for the safety and wellbeing of persons attending the public procession.

[S 118/2016 wef 19/03/2016]

Made this 7th day of October 2009.

BENNY LIM
*Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Singapore.*

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