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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ACT 1991

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
(SPECIAL POLLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR
NURSING HOMES) REGULATIONS 2023

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In exercise of the powers conferred by section 30C of the Presidential Elections Act 1991, the Prime Minister makes the following Regulations:

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations are the Presidential Elections (Special Polling Arrangements for Nursing Homes) Regulations 2023 and come into operation on 1 July 2023.

Definitions

2.—(1) In these Regulations —

“list of mobile polling electors”, in relation to a special polling station, means the principal list of mobile polling electors or a supplementary list of mobile polling electors for that station;

“list of nursing home electors”, in relation to a special polling station, means the principal list of nursing home electors or a supplementary list of nursing home electors for that station;

“mobile polling elector” means a nursing home elector allotted to a special polling station and whose number, name and description appear on the list of mobile polling electors for that special polling station;

“mobile polling team” means a mobile polling team appointed by the Returning Officer under regulation 23;

“nursing home elector” means an elector who is allotted to a special polling station in accordance with section 30B(1) of the Act and whose number, name and description appear on the list of nursing home electors for that special polling station;

“operator”, in relation to a nursing home where a special polling station is established under section 30A(1) of the Act, means the person in charge of the nursing home;

“principal list of mobile polling electors” means the list required by regulation 4(1)(b)(ii) to be prepared for the purposes of a poll in a special polling station and that is certified under regulation 7(4);

“principal list of nursing home electors” means the list required by regulation 4(1)(a) to be prepared for the purposes of a poll in a special polling station and that is certified under regulation 5(3);

“supplementary list of mobile polling electors” means the list required by regulation 4(1)(b)(iii) to be prepared for the purposes of a poll in a special polling station and that is certified under regulation 8(4);

“supplementary list of nursing home electors” means the list required by regulation 4(1)(b)(i) to be prepared for the purposes of a poll at a special polling station and that is certified under regulation 6(5);

“ward”, in relation to a mobile polling elector allotted to a special polling station established in a nursing home, means the ward or bed in the nursing home where the mobile polling elector resides during the election period of an election.

(2) For the purposes of these Regulations, the lists of mobile polling electors and nursing home electors include copies of those lists.

Act to apply subject to these Regulations

3. Subject to these Regulations, a poll and voting at a special polling station must be conducted as far as practicable, in the same manner as

that in which a poll and voting at an ordinary polling station on polling day is conducted under the provisions of the Act.

PART 2

SPECIAL POLLING STATIONS

Division 1 — Lists of nursing home electors and mobile polling electors

Lists to be prepared

4.—(1) The Returning Officer must prepare or cause to be prepared, in accordance with this Division, the following lists for each special polling station established in a nursing home:

- (a) a principal list of nursing home electors;
- (b) where applicable —
 - (i) a supplementary list of nursing home electors;
 - (ii) a principal list of mobile polling electors; and
 - (iii) one or more supplementary lists of mobile polling electors.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the Returning Officer may request the operator of the nursing home to provide, within a specified time, information about the electors who are in-patients or residents of the nursing home during the election period of the election.

(3) The operator of the nursing home must provide the requested information within the specified time.

Principal list of nursing home electors

5.—(1) The principal list of nursing home electors for a special polling station must state the number, name and description of every nursing home elector who is allotted to the special polling station.

(2) The numbers, names and descriptions of those electors must be —

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- (a) extracted from the certified registers of electors for all electoral divisions; and
 - (b) matched with the names provided by the operator of the nursing home under regulation 4(3).
- (3) The principal list of nursing home electors must be certified as accurate by the Registration Officer no later than 2 clear days after the issuance of a writ under section 6 of the Act.

Supplementary list of nursing home electors

6.—(1) This regulation applies if the Returning Officer is informed by the operator of a nursing home where a special polling station is established that one or more electors have become in-patients or residents of the nursing home during the period —

- (a) starting the day on which the principal list of nursing home electors for that special polling station is certified under regulation 5(3); and
 - (b) ending 2 days before polling day.
- (2) The Returning Officer must allot those electors to the special polling station.
- (3) A supplementary list of nursing home electors for the special polling station must be prepared, stating the number, name and description of every elector allotted under paragraph (2).
- (4) The numbers, names and descriptions of those electors must be —
- (a) extracted from the certified registers of electors for all electoral divisions; and
 - (b) matched with the names of those in-patients or residents provided by the operator of the nursing home under paragraph (1).
- (5) A supplementary list of nursing home electors must be certified as accurate by the Registration Officer on or before the eve of polling day.

Principal list of mobile polling electors

7.—(1) A principal list of mobile polling electors must be prepared for a special polling station if the Returning Officer authorises one or more mobile polling teams to be deployed to the special polling station.

(2) The principal list of mobile polling electors must state the number, name, description and ward of every nursing home elector who —

- (a) appears on the list of nursing home electors for the special polling station; and
- (b) is identified by the Returning Officer as eligible to have his or her vote taken by a mobile polling team.

(3) The numbers, names and descriptions of those electors are to be taken from the list of nursing home electors for the special polling station.

(4) The principal list of mobile polling electors must be certified as accurate by the Registration Officer on or before the eve of polling day.

Supplementary lists of mobile polling electors

8.—(1) One or more supplementary lists of mobile polling electors must be prepared for a special polling station if, on polling day, the Returning Officer identifies one or more additional nursing home electors allotted to that station as eligible to have their votes taken by a mobile polling team.

(2) The numbers, names and descriptions of those electors identified under paragraph (1) are to be taken from the list of nursing home electors for the special polling station.

(3) A supplementary list of mobile polling electors must also state the ward of every elector identified under paragraph (1).

(4) A supplementary list of mobile voting electors must be certified as accurate by the Registration Officer no later than one hour before the end of the hours of the poll at that special polling station.

Inspection of lists by candidates and polling agents

9.—(1) If a candidate or his or her polling agent attends at a special polling station on polling day, a copy of each of the following must be provided to the candidate or his or her polling agent (as the case may be) before the start of the hours of the poll at the special polling station:

- (a) the principal list of nursing home electors;
- (b) the principal list of mobile polling electors, if any;
- (c) the supplementary list of nursing home electors, if any.

(2) In addition, a copy of every supplementary list of mobile polling electors for that special polling station must be provided to the candidate or his or her polling agent in attendance at the special polling station —

- (a) as soon as practicable after the list is certified under regulation 8(4); and
- (b) before the end of the hours of the poll at the special polling station.

(3) Only a polling agent who is authorised to be admitted to a special polling station under regulation 12 is entitled to be provided a copy of the lists under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) A candidate or his or her polling agent must return any list provided under this regulation to a presiding officer of the special polling station before the end of the hours of the poll at that station.

Only listed electors may vote at special polling station

10.—(1) An individual may record his or her vote by attending in person at a polling place of a special polling station only if the individual is on the list of nursing home electors for that special polling station.

(2) An individual may have his or her vote taken by a mobile polling team deployed at a special polling station only if he or she is on the list of mobile polling electors for that special polling station.

(3) This regulation does not affect the operation of section 22(2), 30B(2) or 52 of the Act.

Division 2 — Admission of polling agents and nursing homes staff

Section 22 of Act to be modified

11. The application of section 22 of the Act in relation to a special polling station is subject to the provisions of this Division.

Admission of polling agents to special polling station

12.—(1) For the purposes of section 30C(1)(c) of the Act, the maximum number of polling agents who may be admitted to a special polling station is as follows:

- (a) one polling agent for each candidate for each polling place established within the special polling station;
- (b) one polling agent for each candidate for each mobile polling team (if any) that is deployed to the special polling station.

(2) A polling agent of a candidate must not be admitted to a special polling station unless the candidate or the candidate's principal election agent or election agent provides the following information in writing to the Returning Officer no later than 2 clear days before polling day:

- (a) the polling agent's full name (as stated in his or her identity card) and identity card number;
- (b) a statement that the polling agent is appointed for the special polling station.

(3) Section 45(1B) of the Act does not apply in relation to the admission of a polling agent of a candidate to a special polling station.

Election not invalidated by absence of polling agent

13. The absence of any polling agent of a candidate at a special polling station at any time does not invalidate any act or thing done during the absence of the polling agent if the act or thing is otherwise duly done.

Nursing home staff authorised to assist presiding officers, etc.

14.—(1) For the purpose of section 30C(1)(d) of the Act, the Returning Officer may authorise an individual employed by a nursing home (whether or not the individual is a citizen of Singapore) where a special polling station is established —

- (a) to be present in the special polling station; and
- (b) to be admitted to the polling places in the special polling station or to be present when a mobile polling team visits a mobile polling elector to take his or her vote,

for one or more of the following purposes (and for no other purposes):

- (c) assisting in the preparation of a nursing home elector (whether by himself or herself or by the presiding officers) to record his or her vote by attending in person at a polling place;
- (d) assisting in the preparation of a mobile polling elector (whether by himself or herself or by a mobile polling team) to have his vote taken by a mobile polling team;
- (e) providing nursing care or emergency assistance to a nursing home elector or any other person who may be present at the special polling station (including a polling place or ward at the special polling station).

(2) An authorised individual mentioned in paragraph (1) must not remain with a nursing home elector (including a mobile polling elector) from the time the elector receives his or her ballot paper to the time the elector records his or her vote and places the ballot paper into the ballot box.

Visits allowed in nursing home on polling day

15.—(1) Subject to this regulation, a person who is not an in-patient or a resident of a nursing home where a special polling station is established may enter and remain at the premises of the nursing home during the hours of the poll to visit an in-patient or a resident of the nursing home.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not affect the visiting policy of the nursing home.

(3) The Assistant Returning Officer for the special polling station may impose operational requirements to ensure the safe, orderly, efficient and timely conduct of the poll.

(4) A visitor to the nursing home must not —

(a) enter or remain in any polling place in the nursing home during the hours of the poll; or

(b) be present when —

(i) a mobile polling team is visiting a mobile polling elector to take his or her vote; or

(ii) a mobile polling elector is recording his or her vote or placing his or her ballot paper in the ballot box.

Division 3 — Boundaries of polling places in special polling station

Boundaries of polling place in special polling station

16. Subject to regulation 29(10), a polling place of a special polling station consists of such premises or any area within the nursing home that is demarcated by or under the authority of the Returning Officer as such before the poll opens at the special polling station.

Division 4 — Materials and facilities

Delivery of election materials

17.—(1) The Returning Officer must deliver to each special polling station —

(a) enough election materials; and

(b) the necessary instructions,

for the presiding officers and any mobile polling team deployed to that station (if any) to perform their duties.

(2) The materials and instructions must be delivered to the Assistant Returning Officer for the special polling station at any time —

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- (a) after the notice of contested election is published in the *Gazette* under section 16 of the Act; and
 - (b) before voting begins at that special polling station, whether or not a mobile polling team is authorised by the Returning Officer to be deployed at that special polling station.
- (3) Without limiting paragraph (1)(a), the following election materials must be delivered:
- (a) the principal list of nursing home electors and any supplementary list of nursing home electors for the special polling station;
 - (b) enough ballot papers for the nursing home electors appearing on that list or those lists;
 - (c) the necessary materials for those electors to mark their votes on the ballot papers;
 - (d) one or more ballot boxes;
 - (e) the forms of the oaths or declarations to be administered to the nursing home electors;
 - (f) the necessary envelopes, forms and other supplies that may be authorised or provided by the Returning Officer in connection with the conduct of the poll at the special polling station;
 - (g) the full names and identity card numbers of all persons received by the Returning Officer under regulation 12 as the persons appointed as polling agents for the special polling station.

Modification of section 24: ballot boxes

18.—(1) Section 24(2), (3) and (4) of the Act does not apply in relation to ballot boxes used in special polling stations.

(2) Immediately before the commencement of the poll under Part 3, a presiding officer at a special polling station must do the following at a polling place that is specified by the Assistant Returning Officer for the special polling station and in full view of the candidates or their polling agents who are present:

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- (a) show that each ballot box to be used at the special polling station is empty;
 - (b) close the ballot box;
 - (c) ensure that the ballot box is sealed or locked in a manner that prevents it being opened without breaking the seal or lock.
- (3) The sealed or locked ballot boxes allocated for the purpose of the poll under Part 3 —
- (a) must be brought to the polling places of the special polling station;
 - (b) must be kept in full view of a presiding officer at each polling place for the receipt of ballot papers; and
 - (c) must not be opened again until after the close of the poll.
- (4) The sealed or locked ballot boxes that are allocated for mobile polling must be kept in full view of the presiding officer at the polling place mentioned in paragraph (2) until they are deployed for use by a mobile polling team under Part 4.
- (5) Paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) or (4) (as the case may be) apply to every ballot box used at a special polling station, and it is sufficient compliance with those paragraphs if a ballot box, other than one used at the commencement of a poll, is shown and sealed or locked in accordance with paragraph (2) before it is used.

Other logistics

19. The Assistant Returning Officer for a special polling station, or a presiding officer at the special polling station authorised by the Assistant Returning Officer must —

- (a) ensure that there are enough facilities provided at a special polling station for the conduct of a poll; and
- (b) determine how the facilities for voting at a special polling station are to be distributed among the electors entitled to vote at that station.

PART 3
VOTING BY ATTENDANCE IN PERSON
AT POLLING PLACES

Application of this Part

20. This Part applies to and in relation to the conduct of a poll and voting in a special polling station, but not to or in relation to the taking of votes by mobile polling teams.

Modifications of provisions of Act relating to manner of voting

21.—(1) The application of sections 25, 27, 28, 29 and 30 of the Act to a poll and voting at a special polling station is subject to the following modifications:

- (a) a reference to an elector in those provisions is a reference to a nursing home elector;
- (b) for the purpose of section 25(3)(b) of the Act —
 - (i) the reference to the copy of the register of electors is to the copy of the list of the nursing home electors; and
 - (ii) a presiding officer or a person acting under the presiding officer's authority must call out the electoral division, polling district code, number and name of a nursing home elector (as stated in the copy of the list of nursing home electors) in that order;
- (c) for the purpose of section 25(3)(c) of the Act, the polling district code of a nursing home elector must also be marked on the counterfoil of the ballot paper to be delivered to the nursing home elector;
- (d) section 25(9) of the Act does not apply;
- (e) during the hours of the poll at the special polling station, a guidance notice for nursing home electors recording their votes under this Part must be exhibited in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil on or at a conspicuous place outside each polling place.

(2) The guidance notice mentioned in paragraph (1)(e) must contain the matters set out in Part 1 of the Schedule.

PART 4

MOBILE POLLING

Application of this Part

22. This Part applies to and in relation to the taking of votes by mobile polling teams in a special polling station.

Mobile polling teams – composition and roles

23.—(1) A mobile polling team is to consist of —

- (a) a leader appointed by the Returning Officer; and
- (b) one or more other members appointed by the Returning Officer.

(2) An individual must not be appointed under paragraph (1) unless the individual is also eligible to be appointed under section 19(1) of the Act as a presiding officer for an ordinary polling station.

(3) The leader of a mobile polling team deployed to a special polling station must exercise general supervision over the team, and over all arrangements for the conduct of the poll in accordance with this Part, at that special polling station.

(4) The functions of a mobile polling team in these Regulations may be performed by the leader or any other member of the team.

Guidance notice on mobile polling to be given to each mobile polling elector on eve of polling day or as soon as practicable

24.—(1) A presiding officer for a special polling station must distribute a guidance notice to each elector whose name appears on the list of mobile electors for that station.

(2) The guidance notice must include the matters set out in Part 2 of the Schedule in English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

(3) In the case of an elector whose name appears on the principal list of mobile electors, the guidance notice must be distributed on or before the eve of polling day.

(4) In the case of an elector whose name appears on a supplementary list of mobile electors, the guidance notice must, as soon as practicable after the list is certified as accurate under regulation 8(4), be distributed to the elector.

(5) In all cases, the guidance notice must be distributed in a way that is reasonable in the circumstances.

Decision on when mobile polling starts, etc., to be made before hours of poll

25.—(1) The Assistant Returning Officer for a special polling station established in a nursing home must, as soon as practicable and no later than 30 minutes before the start of the hours of the poll at that station —

- (a) consult the operator of the nursing home on the following:
 - (i) the time for starting mobile polling;
 - (ii) the appropriate time for a mobile polling team to visit each mobile polling elector, taking into account the operational requirements of the nursing home and routines of the mobile polling elector on polling day; and
- (b) after the consultation, make the following decisions:
 - (i) decide, in accordance with paragraph (2), the time at which mobile polling for that station starts;
 - (ii) allocate the ballot boxes to be used for mobile polling;
 - (iii) if there are 2 or more mobile polling teams deployed to that station —
 - (A) allocate each mobile polling elector to a mobile polling team; and

(B) allocate the ballot boxes to be used for mobile polling between those teams.

(2) The following provisions apply to the time at which mobile polling starts at a special polling station:

- (a) mobile polling must not start before or after the hours of the poll at the special polling station;
- (b) mobile polling may start after voting by attending in person at polling places has ended (instead of at a specified time);
- (c) the Assistant Returning Officer must take into account the views of the operator under paragraph (1)(a).

Deployment of ballot boxes and mobile polling teams when mobile polling starts

26.—(1) When the ballot boxes that are sealed or locked under regulation 18 are deployed for use by a mobile polling team, the team must bring the sealed or locked ballot boxes, in full view of all candidates or their polling agents that are present, to the wards of the mobile polling electors.

(2) The mobile polling team must ensure that the ballot boxes remain sealed or locked until the close of the poll at the special polling station.

(3) For the purposes of this regulation, if there are 2 or more mobile polling teams deployed to a special polling station, each mobile polling team is responsible for the ballot boxes and mobile polling electors allocated to it.

Allocation of additional mobile polling voters identified during polling day

27. If a supplementary list of mobile polling electors is certified under regulation 8(4) for a special polling station, the Assistant Returning Officer for that station must without delay —

- (a) allocate the additional mobile polling electors in that list to a mobile polling team; and

- (b) deploy that mobile polling team to visit those mobile polling electors for the purposes of taking their votes as soon as practicable before the close of polling at the special polling station.

Leader of mobile polling team to determine route to visit mobile polling electors

28. The leader of a mobile polling team must determine the route to be taken by the team to visit the mobile polling electors allocated to it under regulation 25 or 27, as the case may be.

Manner of voting

29.—(1) Section 25(2) to (9) of the Act does not apply.

(2) When visiting an individual at his or her ward to take his or her vote, the mobile polling team must have a ballot box, ballot papers and any other necessary thing.

(3) A mobile polling team must substantially comply with the following requirements when it arrives to take the vote of an individual at a special polling station:

- (a) the team must, when approaching the individual —
- (i) announce the arrival of the team to take the vote of the individual;
 - (ii) require the individual to identify himself or herself;
 - (iii) if the individual is not at his or her ward, the team must leave a written notice at a conspicuous part of the ward indicating —
 - (A) that the team attempted to visit the individual; and
 - (B) the approximate time at which the team would visit the individual again to take his or her vote; and
 - (iv) if the individual is unable to identify himself or herself or is otherwise not responsive to the team —

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- (A) the team must inform the candidates or their polling agents who are present of the fact; and
 - (B) the individual is not to be issued a ballot paper;
- (b) unless sub-paragraph (a)(iii) or (iv) applies, the team must ascertain if the identity card number and name of the individual appear on the list of mobile polling electors for that special polling station;
- (c) if the identity card number and name of the individual 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 individual:
- (i) the team must call out the electoral division, polling district code, number and name of the individual (as stated on that list) in that order;
 - (ii) the number of the individual as stated in that list of mobile polling electors for that special polling station and his or her polling district code must be marked on the counterfoil of the ballot paper to be issued to him or her;
 - (iii) unless the complete official mark has already been pre-printed or affixed to the ballot paper to be used for the election, the team 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;
 - (iv) place a mark in that list of mobile polling electors for that special polling station against the number of the individual to denote that he or she has been issued a ballot paper but without showing the particular ballot paper that he or she has been issued;
- (d) the team must then —
- (i) fold in 2 the authenticated ballot paper mentioned in sub-paragraph (c)(iii) unmarked, ensuring that the

ballot paper number on the counterfoil matches the folded ballot paper number at the back; and

- (ii) deliver to the individual that ballot paper and any other thing necessary to enable the individual to vote;
- (e) the team may —
- (i) ascertain whether the individual has the guidance notice distributed under regulation 24 and understands the method of voting under this Part; and
 - (ii) if the team thinks fit, on the application of the individual, explain to him or her, in the presence of the candidates or their polling agents who are present, the method of voting in accordance with this Part, carefully abstaining from any conduct which might be construed by the individual as advice or a direction to vote for any particular candidate.

(4) Immediately after receiving a ballot paper for an election under paragraph (3)(d) and any explanation under paragraph (3)(e), the mobile polling elector must do the following:

- (a) unfold the ballot paper;
- (b) secretly mark the ballot paper in the area demarcated on the ballot paper for that purpose, using the voting compartment provided by the mobile polling team;
- (c) re-fold in 2 the ballot paper so as to conceal his or her vote;
- (d) insert the folded ballot paper into the sealed or locked ballot box made available for that purpose by the mobile polling team.

(5) If a mobile polling elector is unable to vote in the manner mentioned in paragraph (4) by reason of blindness or other physical disability, he or she may apply to the mobile polling team to do so on his or her behalf.

(6) Upon an application by a mobile polling elector under paragraph (5), the mobile polling team must mark on the elector's ballot paper in the manner directed by the elector, taking the steps mentioned in paragraph (4).

(7) The mobile polling team must without delay leave the ward of the mobile polling elector after the mobile polling elector or the team (as the case may be) has carried out the steps mentioned in paragraph (4).

(8) Subject to paragraph (9), in a case mentioned in paragraph (3)(a)(iii), the team must visit the individual at the approximate time indicated in the written notice and follow the requirements in paragraph (3).

(9) A mobile polling team may only visit an individual 3 times to take his or her vote, and if the individual is not at his or her ward on the third visit, the team must inform the candidates and their polling agents who are present that the mobile polling team will not visit the mobile polling elector again to take his or her vote.

(10) When a mobile polling team is at the ward of a mobile polling elector to take his or her vote for the purposes of, and in connection with, the taking of votes under this Part —

- (a) the ward is deemed to be a polling place demarcated by or under the authority of the Returning Officer as such during the time that the mobile polling team is at the ward; and
- (b) the leader and every member of the mobile polling team are deemed to be the presiding officers at that polling place.

Modification of section 26 of Act: mobile polling elector excused from voting if visit by mobile polling team forbidden under Act

30. If the operator of a nursing home informs a member of a mobile polling team that a visit to a mobile polling elector is forbidden on medical grounds under section 30A(5) of the Act, the mobile polling elector —

- (a) must be treated under section 26(8) of the Act as having a good and sufficient reason for not having recorded his or her vote at the election; and
- (b) is entitled to have his or her name restored to the relevant register of electors without penalty, and without

application, after the Registration Officer gives notice in the *Gazette* under section 26(6) of the Act after that election.

Electors who received ballot papers before close of voting hours may complete voting

31.—(1) Section 30 of the Act does not apply.

(2) The mobile polling team at a special polling station must not, after the hour fixed for the closing of the poll at the special polling station, deliver any ballot papers or otherwise continue with mobile polling.

(3) However, if at the hour fixed for the closing of the poll at a special polling station, a ballot paper has been delivered to a mobile polling elector who has not yet indicated that he or she has finished voting, the elector must be allowed to record his or her vote and insert that ballot paper into the ballot box brought by the mobile polling team for this purpose.

Procedure after end of last visit by mobile polling team

32.—(1) 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 any other member of the team, and the candidates and their polling agents who are present, publicly close, fasten, seal and take charge of each ballot box used by the team.

(2) If the mobile polling team completes its last visit before polling under Part 3 is complete, the team must —

- (a) return to a polling place of the special polling station, as specified by the Assistant Returning Officer for the special polling station;
- (b) seal each ballot box used by the team for mobile polling, using the seal of a presiding officer in a carrier approved by the Returning Officer at a location that is in clear view of the candidates and polling agents; and

- (c) remove each ballot box from its carrier only after the close of the poll in the special polling station for the purpose of complying with the procedure set out in regulation 34.

Election not invalidated by failure to visit mobile polling elector

33. Any failure by a mobile polling team to make a visit to a mobile polling elector to take his or her vote for an election in accordance with this Part does not in itself invalidate the result of the election.

PART 5

**PROCEDURE AFTER CLOSE OF POLL;
COUNTING OF VOTES**

Procedure after close of poll at special polling station

34.—(1) Section 31 of the Act does not apply in relation to special polling stations.

(2) As soon as practicable after the close of the poll at a special polling station, every presiding officer of the special polling station must, in the presence of the candidates and their polling agents who are present —

- (a) make up into separate packets —
- (i) the unused and spoilt ballot papers placed together;
 - (ii) the marked list of nursing home electors or list of mobile polling electors (as the case may be) for that special polling station;
 - (iii) the counterfoils of the ballot papers; and
 - (iv) the tendered votes list; and
- (b) seal each packet with the presiding officer's own seal and the seals of the candidates or their polling agents if they desire to affix their seals.

(3) All ballot boxes within the special polling station must remain unopened and must be secured by the Assistant Returning Officer or a senior presiding officer for that station and sealed with —

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

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

(4) Every ballot box used in a special polling station, including any ballot box used for mobile polling, must be sealed under paragraph (3) at the same time.

(5) The Assistant Returning Officer or senior presiding officer for a special polling station must without delay despatch every packet mentioned in paragraph (2) and the sealed ballot boxes mentioned in paragraph (3) in safe custody to the counting place for votes cast at the special polling station by such means approved by the Returning Officer.

Opening of ballot boxes from special polling stations

35. The Assistant Returning Officer or senior presiding officer for a special polling station must ensure that every ballot box from that station in an election is kept in safe custody and not opened until the votes cast at the special polling station in the election are to be counted in accordance with regulation 36.

Modification of section 32 of Act: counting votes cast at special polling station

36.—(1) The application of section 32 of the Act to the counting of the votes cast at a special polling station is subject to the modifications in this regulation.

(2) For the purposes of expediting the counting of the votes cast at a special polling station in the election —

- (a) the counting of such votes may commence in batches; and
- (b) the counting of each batch may commence only if the Returning Officer is satisfied that a sufficient number of ballot boxes containing such votes has arrived at the counting place, so as to ensure that voting secrecy is not compromised.

(3) Before the Returning Officer proceeds to count each batch of votes, the Returning Officer or a person authorised by the Returning Officer must, in the presence of the candidates and their counting agents who are in attendance, open all the ballot boxes to be counted in that batch and, taking out the papers in each ballot box, mix together all the ballot papers contained in the ballot boxes.

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

- (a) announce to the candidates or their counting agents who are in attendance, the number of votes given to each candidate;
- (b) prepare a record in the form prescribed for the purposes of section 32(8A) of the Act, containing the number of votes given to each candidate and other results of the counting of votes at the counting place, and certify that record;
- (c) transmit to the principal counting place, 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.

Recounting

37. If a recount is required, the votes at the counting place must be recounted and added by substantially following the procedure mentioned in regulation 36.

THE SCHEDULE

Regulation 21(2) and 24(2)

PART 1

GUIDANCE NOTICE FOR VOTING BY ATTENDANCE IN PERSON AT POLLING PLACE OF SPECIAL POLLING STATION

1. When you are given a ballot paper, go to a polling booth or use a voting compartment.

THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

2. Mark on your ballot paper an “X” in the empty box for the candidate you are voting for.

(a) Do not make any other mark on your ballot paper, or your vote may not be counted.

(b) If you make a mistake when marking your ballot paper, return it to the presiding officer and ask for another ballot paper.

3. After marking your ballot paper, fold it in half and drop it into the ballot box. Do not let anyone see your vote.

4. Leave the polling station immediately after dropping your ballot paper into the ballot box.

(Seal of Returning Officer)

Returning Officer

(specify date)

PART 2

GUIDANCE NOTICE FOR MOBILE POLLING
AT SPECIAL POLLING STATION

1. Under the Presidential Elections Act 1991, the mobile polling team* will visit you at your bed for you to cast your vote on Polling Day (specify date).

2. Please have with you your identification document (i.e. NRIC or Passport) and poll card on the date stated above and be ready for the polling process.

3. The mobile polling team will approach you at your bed to announce their arrival.

4. Polling will be conducted for each voter at a time as follows:

(a) You may vote for one candidate. You have only one vote. The candidates contesting in the election are listed in the Annex.

(b) You are to identify yourself by providing the mobile polling team with your identification document and poll card. The candidates or their polling agents may be present to observe the polling proceedings.

(c) Once your identity has been ascertained, the mobile polling team will register you using the eRegistration device.

THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (d) The mobile polling team will then read out your electoral division, polling district code, voter serial number and name before issuing a ballot paper to you.
- (e) You may use the voting compartment and ‘X’ stamp to mark a cross in the space provided for the purpose on the right hand side of the ballot paper opposite the name of the candidate. You may also use your own pen to mark ‘X’ on your ballot paper.
- (f) Next, fold your ballot paper so as to show the official mark on the back, and without showing the front of the ballot paper to any person, put the ballot paper into the ballot box.

5. If you are physically unable to mark the ballot paper, you can ask an election official on the mobile polling team to assist you to do so. A second election official from the mobile polling team will witness the process.

6. If you are not at your bed when the mobile polling team first visits you, they will leave a notice on your bed indicating that they have attempted to visit you and the approximate time at which they will visit you again for you to cast your vote. If you are still not at your bed when the mobile polling team visits you for the second time, the mobile polling team will leave another notice on your bed indicating that they have attempted to visit you on 2 occasions and the approximate time at which they will visit you again. If you are still not at your bed for the third time, the mobile polling team will not visit you again.

7. If you are unable to identify yourself or are unresponsive to the mobile polling team, you will not be issued a ballot paper to cast your vote.

8. If you need more information, please visit ELD website at <https://www.eld.gov.sg> or call our helpline at 1800-CALL-ELD (1800-225 5353).

9. We thank you for your cooperation.

(Seal of Returning Officer)

Returning Officer

(specify date)

**A mobile polling team is a team of election officials conducting polling proceedings via bed-to-bed polling at the special polling station.*

Made on 28 June 2023.

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

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