

Purpose

This handbook represents the Registry of Political Donations' interpretation of the Political Donations Act 2000.

It is designed primarily to help political associations, candidates and their election agents comply with the provisions of the Act and its Regulations.

While this handbook is officially approved by the Registrar of Political Donations, it does not take precedence over the legislation and should be read in conjunction with the Act. This handbook is not intended to provide an exhaustive or authoritative discussion of the Act.

Any political association, candidate, election agent and any other person who is subject to the Act and who intends to accept or act in relation to any specific donation is advised to seek the opinion of independent legal counsel.

The Registrar offers only the assurance that reliance on this handbook will be an important factor in deliberating whether to initiate enforcement action under the Act.

Any questions on this handbook should be directed to the Registry of Political Donations in writing. Candidates and their election agents, often requiring more technical information than the general public, are asked to identify themselves as such when communicating with the Registry.

Political Donations Act 2000 - Rationale

The Political Donations Act 2000 came into operation on 15 February 2001.

Money buys influence. Therefore the Act seeks to prevent foreigners from interfering in Singapore's domestic politics through funding. It prohibits political associations, candidates and their election agents from accepting donations other than from permissible sources and restricts the receipt of anonymous donations.

"It is no more legitimate for foreigners to pay money to support a political association or candidate than it is for them to support the association's cause or to vote for the candidate.....Politics in Singapore should be for Singaporeans only."

Mr Wong Kan Seng
Minister for Home Affairs
2nd Reading Speech
Political Donations Bill 2000
22nd May 2000

The Act is not meant to prohibit political parties from making donations to its members who are contesting in parliamentary elections.

Registry of Political Donations

The Registry of Political Donations administers the Political Donations Act 2000 and its Regulations.

The Registrar of Political Donations is empowered under the Act to require political associations, candidates and their election agents to submit additional information and documents, for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the prohibitions and restrictions in the Act regarding donations to political associations, candidates and their election agents.

The Registry is located at the following address:

Registry of Political Donations
11 Prinsep Link
Singapore 187949

Tel: 1800-2221808

Fax: 6332 3428

Website: www.elections.gov.sg

The operating hours of the Registry are:

Mondays to Fridays : 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Saturdays : 8.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.