

**Legislative Council
Panel on Constitutional Affairs**

**Practical Arrangements for
the 2016 Legislative Council General Election**

PURPOSE

The 2016 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) general election will be held on 4 September 2016. This paper sets out the key electoral arrangements proposed by the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) for the election.

BACKGROUND

2. The EAC is a statutory and independent body responsible for the conduct and supervision of elections. The EAC, supported by the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”), is making preparations for various electoral arrangements for the 2016 LegCo general election. The key practical arrangements relating to polling stations, deployment of electoral staff, counting of votes, public inspection of election advertisements (“EAs”), facilitation measures for electors with special needs, media centre and contingency planning are set out in the following paragraphs.

PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS

Polling Date and Nomination Period

3. In accordance with section 6(1) of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542) (“LCO”), the Chief Executive has specified 4 September 2016 as the date for holding the general election to elect Members for the sixth term LegCo. The relevant notice was published in the Gazette on 4 March 2016.

4. Section 7 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Legislative Council) Regulation (Cap. 541D) (“EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation”) provides that the nomination period is to be determined by the Chief Electoral Officer (“CEO”). The same section provides that the nomination period must not be less than 14 days or more than 21 days, and that it must end not less than 28 days and not more than 42 days before the date on which the election is to be held. It is an established practice to set a 14-day nomination period and, also, allow roughly five weeks for candidates’ canvassing activities between the end of the nomination period and the polling day. Following this practice, we plan to set the nomination period for the coming general election from 16 to

29 July 2016, and the period will formally be published in the Gazette in due course.

Number and Allocation of Polling Stations

5. There are at present about 3.69 million, 0.23 million and 3.4 million electors registered for the geographical constituencies (“GCs”), traditional functional constituencies (“FCs”) and District Council (second) functional constituency (“DC(second)FC”) respectively in the 2015 Final Register. The 2016 voter registration drive has commenced in early March 2016 and the deadline for application for registration is 2 May 2016. We plan to publish the 2016 Final Register in mid-July 2016, taking into consideration the requirement under section 20 of the Electoral Affairs Commission (Registration of Electors) (Legislative Council Geographical Constituencies) (District Council Constituencies) Regulation (Cap. 541A) and the nomination period of the election. The voter registration figure for the LegCo general election to be held on 4 September will be available by then. We estimate that there will be an increase in the overall number of registered electors compared to the present figure. At present, we are planning our preparatory work for the election on the basis that about 3.8 million GC registered electors are eligible to vote in the election.

6. To facilitate electors to cast their votes, the REO will set up around 580 ordinary polling stations (“OPSs”) for the 2016 LegCo general election. We aim to have at least 90% of the polling stations set up at venues accessible to electors with mobility difficulties. Assuming that there would be about 3.8 million registered electors, about 6 600 electors will be assigned to each OPS on average which is comparable to the average figure of 6 300 electors assigned to each polling station in the 2015 District Council (“DC”) ordinary election.

7. To facilitate electors to cast their votes and to minimise confusion, it has been the established practice to use the same venues for setting up polling stations, as far as possible, for all the elections in the same election cycle. REO has approached the management of over 400 non-government venues to seek their agreement of using the venues concerned for setting up polling stations in the LegCo general election. Our aim is to arrange venues used for setting up polling stations in the 2015 DC ordinary election to continue to be used in the LegCo general election as far as possible. Nevertheless, whether this can be achieved is largely dependent on the cooperation of the relevant venue management bodies. Besides, there are a small number of venues which have proved to be too small or unsuitable for use after the 2015 DC ordinary election, and hence we will identify alternative venues.

8. Apart from the OPSs, 21 dedicated polling stations (“DPSs”) will be set up at the penal institutions of the Correctional Services Department (“CSD”) for registered electors imprisoned or remanded under the custody of the CSD to cast votes in the election. We also plan to set up three DPSs at police stations (one on Hong Kong Island, one in Kowloon and one in the New Territories) for registered electors who are remanded or detained on the polling day by law enforcement agencies other than CSD, such as the Police, Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Customs and Excise Department, to cast their votes.

Polling Hours

9. Following the established arrangement, the polling hours of OPSs and DPSs set up at police stations for the 2016 LegCo general election will run from 7:30 am to 10:30 pm. As for DPSs set up at CSD penal institutions, due to security considerations, the polling hours will be from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Electoral Staff Recruitment and Training

10. We have launched a recruitment exercise in March 2016 to recruit electoral staff of different ranks for the 2016 LegCo general election. We plan to recruit and train about 25 000 civil servants from various government policy bureaux/departments for carrying out polling and counting duties on the polling day. About 21 000 staff will be arranged for manning polling stations and another 4 000 for the operation at the Central Counting Station (“CCS”) to be set up at the AsiaWorld-Expo in Chek Lap Kok. The polling-cum-counting staff to be deployed to OPSs will perform polling duties and take charge of the counting of GC votes. For staff deployed to the CCS, they will be responsible for the counting of votes for the traditional FCs and the DC(second)FC.

11. Briefing sessions on the polling and counting procedures and arrangements including hands-on practice of counting duties will be arranged for staff. We will also continue to remind all staff working at polling stations to pay attention to electors with special needs and provide these electors with assistance whenever necessary. Besides, polling management training which includes crisis management, quality polling service, training on emotional quotient, and experience sharing workshop will be organised for staff at the supervisory level. For staff deployed to compile statistical returns on the polling day, specialised training on statistical work will also be organised for them. Besides, staff working in CCS need to attend an on-site rehearsal of counting duties on the day before the polling day.

Polling Arrangements

12. As in the past LegCo general elections, a combined polling arrangement will be adopted to facilitate electors to cast votes. Under this arrangement, an eligible elector will cast all the votes he/she is eligible to cast at the same polling station. The ballot papers for GCs, traditional FCs and DC(second)FC will be of different sizes, colours, colour patterns and codes for easy differentiation. As part of the established practice, there would be dedicated ballot boxes for receiving these three different types of ballot papers separately. To ensure that ballot papers are put in the right ballot boxes, each type of ballot papers would bear the same colour to match that of the corresponding ballot boxes. Furthermore, depending on the number and types of ballot papers to be issued to individual electors, there would be four dedicated cardboards of different colours for holding the ballot papers. Such arrangement is to facilitate polling staff to monitor the casting of votes and ensure that no elector will leave the polling station with any ballot paper. Suitable publicity would also be arranged to remind electors of the above polling procedures.

Vote Counting Arrangements

Vote counting arrangements for GCs

13. For the GCs, we will adopt the same poll-cum-count practice of the 2012 LegCo general election, with vote counting to be conducted at individual polling stations after the close of poll. Under this arrangement, a polling station (other than a small polling station (“SPS”) and a DPS as explained in paragraph 14 below) will be converted into a counting station immediately after the close of poll. During the conversion process, candidates and their agents may remain inside the polling station. After the conversion, candidates and their agents, the media and members of the public are allowed to be present in the counting station to observe the count. The count will be conducted manually and, during the count, questionable ballot papers will first be separated for later determination of validity by the Presiding Officers (“PROs”). Candidates and their election or counting agents may make representations during the determination process but the decision of the PROs on the validity of ballot papers is final under the electoral law.

14. To protect the secrecy of votes, GC ballot papers of the SPSs (with fewer than 500 registered electors) as well as all DPSs (after sorting by GCs at the Ballot Paper Sorting Stations) will be delivered to the respective main counting stations under police escort and accompanied by not more than two

candidates and/or their agents, for mixing with the ballot papers cast in the main counting stations before counting.

15. Upon completion of the count at a counting station, the PRO will make known the counting results to the candidates or their agents present who will then have the opportunity to request a re-count of votes. If there is such a request and such request is accepted by the PRO, a re-count will be conducted on the spot immediately. When there is no request for a re-count¹, the PRO will report the counting result to the Statistical Information Centre (“SIC”) for consolidation. After consolidating all the counting results of a GC, the SIC will report the aggregate counting result of the GC to the Returning Officer (“RO”) of the GC concerned in the CCS, who will make known the aggregate counting result to the candidates concerned or their agents present. The candidates or their agents will at that time have the opportunity to request a re-count of votes at all the counting stations of the GC. If there is such a request and such request is accepted by the RO, a re-count will be conducted at all the counting stations concerned immediately. When there is no request for a re-count², the RO will formally announce the election result at the Media Centre in the CCS.

Vote counting arrangements for FCs

16. The vote counting arrangements for traditional FCs and DC(second)FC would largely follow those adopted in the 2012 LegCo general election, with votes to be counted centrally in the CCS. After the close of poll, polling staff (including those in the SPSs and DPSs) will deliver the traditional FC and the DC(second)FC ballot boxes to the CCS under police escort and accompanied by not more than two candidates and/or their agents.

17. Counting zones will be set up in the CCS for the counting of votes of individual traditional FCs and the DC(second) FC respectively. A designated RO/Assistant Returning Officer (“ARO”) will be assigned to take charge of each FC counting zone. During the counting process, candidates and their agents, the media and members of the public are allowed to be present in the designated areas of the CCS to observe the count. The Chief Returning Officer will supervise the overall operation in the CCS.

¹ Or when such request is rejected by the PRO as being unreasonable in accordance with section 79A(2) of EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation.

² Or when such request is rejected by the RO as being unreasonable in accordance with section 79A(6) of EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation.

18. The procedure on the determination of questionable ballot papers for all FCs including the DC(second)FC is essentially the same. Questionable ballot papers will first be separated during the counting process for subsequent determination by the ROs/AROs (including AROs(Legal))³. Candidates and their election or counting agents may make representations during the determination process. Again, the decision of the ROs on the validity of ballot papers is final under the electoral law.

19. Upon completion of the count, the RO will make known the counting results to the candidates or their agents present in the CCS, and the candidates or their agents will then have the opportunity to request a re-count of votes. If there is such a request which is accepted by the RO, the re-count will be conducted on the spot. When there is no request for a re-count⁴, the RO shall formally announce the election results at the Media Centre.

Design of Ballot Papers and Ballot Boxes

20. Same as in the 2012 LegCo general election, candidates will be allowed to have certain specified particulars relating to their candidature printed on the ballot papers in the 2016 LegCo general election. The design of the ballot papers for DC(second)FC and that of a GC are similar as the polling for both constituencies adopts a list system of proportional representation. The size of the ballot papers will however depend on the number of candidates/list of candidates contesting in the constituency. The candidates will be invited to check the final proofs of the ballot papers to ensure that the information contained therein is accurate before the ballot papers are printed. A full-scale checking on the ballot papers will be conducted to ensure that they are correctly and properly printed.

21. Same as in the 2012 LegCo general election, ballot boxes of three different colours will be used in the 2016 LegCo general election for receiving the three different types of ballot papers, namely a white ballot box for DC(second)FC ballot papers, a blue one for GC ballot papers and a red one for traditional FC ballot papers. The back of the ballot papers will be printed with patterns bearing the same colours corresponding to that of their respective ballot boxes. This arrangement will provide easy identification for electors to insert the ballot papers into the correct ballot boxes and facilitate polling staff to monitor the vote casting process and provide assistance if necessary.

³ Only the RO appointed for DC(second)FC may delegate the power to make a determination of the validity of a ballot paper or the power to make a decision as to whether the vote recorded on a ballot paper is to be counted to an ARO appointed for the constituency in accordance with section 92(3) and (4) of EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation.

⁴ Or when such request is rejected by the RO as being unreasonable in accordance with section 79(2) of EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation.

22. The REO will carefully and thoroughly test the capacity of the ballot boxes to be used in the 2016 LegCo general election and will ensure that there will be sufficient ballot boxes to cater for a 100% turnout of the registered electors.

Free of Postage Promotional Letters

23. In accordance with section 43 of the LCO, a validly nominated list of candidates/candidate for a GC/FC may send free of postage one letter to each elector of the constituency for which the list of candidates/candidate is nominated. The purpose is to enable candidates to mail EAs to promote or advertise themselves to electors.

24. The electoral law also allows specified categories of candidates/lists of candidates in a LegCo general election to send joint promotional letters free of postage. Under sections 43(4A) to (4C) of the LCO, a letter sent by a list of candidates which is validly nominated for a GC may contain information on the candidacy in respect of any number of list of candidates which is also validly nominated for that GC; or one single list of candidates which is validly nominated for the DC(second)FC; or both. A letter sent by a list of candidates which is validly nominated for the DC(second)FC may contain information on the candidacy in respect of any number of list of candidates which is validly nominated for one single GC. A letter sent by a candidate who is validly nominated for the Labour FC may contain information on the candidacy in respect of any other candidate who is also validly nominated for that constituency. We shall provide guidance notes on the above arrangement to facilitate candidates to consider how to arrange the promotional letters.

Address Labels

25. To facilitate candidates to send out EAs by free postage, it has been an established practice of the REO to provide each candidate/list of candidate upon request with a set of address labels pertaining to the electors in the constituency concerned. Following the green measures implemented since the 2012 LegCo general election, we will continue to offer candidates/lists of candidates the choice to select between address labels printed on a household basis (i.e., one address label for one household) and address labels printed on an individual basis (i.e., one address label for each individual elector) except those who have provided REO with their email addresses. Address labels will be printed and provided to the candidates/lists of candidates normally within five working days upon receipt of the requests.

26. We will continue the practice of providing, upon request, each validly nominated candidate/list of candidates with a computer disc (referred to as Candidate Mailing Label System (“CMLS”)) containing the mailing information of electors (including the names and addresses) extracted from the Final Register and, if provided by the electors during voter registration, email address of electors. Candidates/lists of candidates may make use of the information in the CMLS to generate address labels according to their own needs for posting of EAs or send out electronic EAs to the electors’ email addresses. We will continue to have a message printed on the paper cover of the disc to remind candidates/lists of candidates that the personal information of electors can only be used for the purpose of electioneering activities of the 2016 LegCo general election and the disc must be destroyed after the election, as well as to draw their particular attention to the possible legal consequences of not taking heed of the reminder.

27. Candidates/lists of candidates, when requesting the address labels or the CMLS, are required to sign an undertaking regarding the use of the information of electors. To further protect the privacy of individual electors, we will reinforce our advice and, in particular, remind candidates to undertake the following privacy protection measures-

- (a) when using emails for mass distribution of electronic EAs to electors, candidates/lists of candidates are required to use “b.c.c.” function or other proven means which will not reveal the email addresses of individual electors to other recipients; and
- (b) candidates/lists of candidates should make every endeavour to prevent any disclosure of electors’ personal data to unauthorised persons, and in the event of inadvertent disclosure of electors’ personal data to third parties, to prevent any misuse of the relevant information by the third parties, including but not limited to informing the third parties that they are in possession of electors’ personal data obtained for the purpose of compiling a register of electors and requiring them to delete the relevant information immediately.

28. Besides, the REO has sent emails to electors who provided their email addresses in March this year, reminding the electors that the REO will provide their email addresses to the candidates/lists of candidates concerned for sending EAs to them, and the electors can update their email addresses through GovHK. The REO will also remove email addresses which are found to be obsolete, and has sent letters to these electors to remind them to update their email addresses.

Submission of EAs

29. Under the current electoral law, to comply with the public inspection requirement, candidates/lists of candidates must deposit copies of their EAs and the relevant publication information and documents with ROs, or post the electronic copies of these documents/information onto a central platform maintained by the CEO (referred to as Central Platform) or an open platform maintained by the candidate/list of candidates (referred to as Candidate's Platform) for public inspection within one working day after the publication of the EAs. For those EAs of which posting onto the Central Platform or Candidate's Platform is not practicable (e.g., electioneering messages of interactive and spontaneous nature through social networking and communication websites on the internet), candidates/lists of candidates may only need to post the hyperlinks to the relevant website onto the platform in order to satisfy the public inspection requirement.

Introduction to Candidates

30. Under the present arrangement, candidates/lists of candidates are free to make use of the "Introduction to Candidates" leaflets/booklets which are published by the REO to promote their candidatures, as long as the requirements under the law and the EAC guidelines are satisfied. Candidates/lists of candidates who wish to make use of the leaflets/booklets must submit the content of their candidatures to be printed in the leaflets/booklets, in a format specified by the EAC, to the REO before the end of the nomination period. The REO will mail the leaflets/booklets, together with the poll card, to the electors before the polling day.

Facilitation Measures for Electors with Special Needs

31. As in previous elections, REO will continue to make best endeavours in consultation with the Equal Opportunities Commission to facilitate electors with special needs to exercise their right to vote. We have reviewed past experience and will implement the following facilitation measures in the 2016 LegCo general election-

- (a) to assist electors with mobility difficulties, we aim to have at least 90% of our polling stations to be set up in accessible venues. Where circumstances permit, the REO would install temporary ramps at the polling stations to facilitate wheelchair users. REO will also remind electors with mobility difficulties or wheelchair users, through location maps attached to poll cards and various promotion channels, that if they have been allocated to an

inaccessible polling station, they may apply to the REO at least five days before the polling day for re-allocation to an accessible polling station. The REO will also approach the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation for arrangement of Rehabuses to transport electors with mobility difficulties or wheelchair users to and from the polling stations on request;

- (b) to assist electors with hearing impairment, all polling stations are provided with a pictorial voting aid to assist the electors to understand the voting procedures. Sign language interpretation and subtitles are incorporated in the Announcements of Public Interest relating to the voting procedures and, where there is a practical need, such interpretation service will also be made available at the candidates' briefing;
- (c) to assist electors with visual impairment, we have since the 2012 LegCo general election encouraged candidates to provide a typed text version of their Introduction to Candidates for uploading onto the election website (www.elections.gov.hk) to facilitate electors with visual impairment to read the relevant information online using software aids. We will continue this practice in the coming LegCo general election. At the same time, we will continue the arrangement to collect the email addresses of electors with visual impairment via the relevant non-government organisations and to send them the relevant polling information by email. Upon receipt of the email, the electors would then be able to read the electronic polling information with the aid of a computer. Other facilitation measures such as provision of braille templates and braille list of candidates at the polling stations will continue; and
- (d) to facilitate ethnic minority electors who cannot speak English or Chinese, all polling stations will be equipped with explanatory notes compiled in seven languages commonly used by the ethnic minority groups in Hong Kong⁵ to facilitate them to understand the voting procedures. In addition, we shall collaborate with the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents ("CHEER") to provide interpretation service in the seven ethnic minority languages⁵, through the REO telephone hotline service, to help electors of ethnic minorities understand the voting procedures and to facilitate them to make enquiries on election-related matters before the election and on the polling day. Arrangement will also be made with CHEER for providing the interpretation service over

⁵ That is, Bahasa Indonesia, Tagalog, Thai, Hindi, Nepali, Urdu and Punjabi.

the phone if electors of ethnic minorities make a request to the PROs for language assistance at the polling stations.

A summary list of the facilitation measures which the REO plans to put in place to serve electors with special needs is at the **Annex** for reference.

Reduction of Paper Consumption on Election-related Materials

32. For environmental protection, we will continue to adopt various measures to reduce paper consumption on election-related materials including-

- (a) where possible, bulky materials to be provided to candidates for reference will be distributed in an electronic format;
- (b) providing printed address labels of electors (except those who have provided REO with their email addresses) to candidates only upon request;
- (c) providing candidates with the email addresses of electors, if available, for sending EAs electronically;
- (d) appealing to electors to register their email addresses with the REO through GovHK and encouraging candidates to send their EAs by electronic means to electors who have provided their email addresses;
- (e) encouraging candidates to use household address labels to send promotional letters to electors and suggesting them to include a message in their EAs to encourage the recipient electors to share and pass on the EAs to the other electors residing at the same address after reading;
- (f) allowing candidates to submit electronic copies of EAs onto an open platform for public inspection;
- (g) allowing candidates and electors to submit certain electoral forms or notices through electronic means⁶ if permitted under the electoral law;

⁶ Electronic means include sending the relevant electoral forms by facsimile, by electronic mail, and, where applicable, by submission of electronic forms attached with digital signatures via a platform maintained by the CEO.

- (h) using recycled paper or paper made from wood-pulp derived from sustainable forest to print electoral documents as far as practicable; and
- (i) exploring possible ways to recycle waste paper left after the election.

Furthermore, all electoral documents such as the Introduction to Candidates and ballot papers will be printed with environmentally friendly ink.

Central Command Centre

33. A Central Command Centre (“CCC”) will be set up each at REO’s Office in Kowloonbay International Trade and Exhibition Centre (“KITEC”) and the CCS on the polling day to oversee the conduct of the poll and vote counting, and to provide central command and helpdesk/support services.

Statistical Information Centre

34. An SIC will be set up each inside the CCC at REO’s office in KITEC and the CCS. The former is to collect and consolidate voter turnout statistics in respect of GCs and FCs, and counting results in respect of the GCs collected from the polling-cum-counting stations. The latter is to consolidate counting results collected from the CCS in respect of FCs. The same arrangement was made in the 2012 LegCo general election and has proved to be efficient and reliable. The voter turnout figures will be made available to the public through press releases and the dedicated website for the 2016 LegCo general election on an hourly basis.

Media Centre

35. A Media Centre will be set up in the CCS to facilitate the dissemination of counting results to the candidates, the media and the public. Election results will be declared by the respective ROs at the Media Centre. Inside the Media Centre, there will be designated areas for use by candidates and their agents, the media and the public including the supporters of the candidates. Following the established practice, counting results of individual counting stations will be posted at the Media Centre and interim aggregate counting results in respect of the GCs and DC(second)FC will be released through a dedicated system at the Media Centre and via the election website starting from the early morning of 5 September 2016 until declaration of the election results. Election results, once declared, will be announced on the election website and through press release for public information.

Contingency Planning

36. Section 44 of the LCO and Schedule 2 to the EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation provide for the postponement of a LegCo general election or the adjournment of the poll or count under specified circumstances. We shall set up a Crisis Management Committee (“CMC”) to provide professional advice, where necessary, to the EAC on the handling of all matters concerning postponement of the election or the adjournment of the poll or count under the specified circumstances. The EAC will decide how best the situation should be handled having regard to the circumstances at the material time and the advice of the CMC. The CMC is chaired by the EAC Chairman and comprises the representatives of the relevant policy bureaux/departments depending on the issues under consideration.

37. Section 7(3) of Schedule 2 to the EAC(EP)(LC) Regulation requires that the postponed election or the adjourned poll or count should be held not later than 14 days from the date on which it would have been held. As it has been the established practice to hold the poll on a Sunday to facilitate electors to cast their votes, the postponed election or the adjourned poll would normally resume on the following Sunday as far as circumstances permit. For contingency planning, in the case of the 2016 LegCo general election, the fallback date would then be 11 September 2016 if postponement or adjournment is required.

ADVICE SOUGHT

38. Members are invited to express views on the arrangements set out in this paper.

Registration and Electoral Office
April 2016

Facilitation Measures for Electors with Special Needs

(A) Electors with mobility difficulties

1. As far as circumstances permit, polling stations will be set up in venues which are accessible to electors with mobility difficulties. Where feasible, temporary ramps will be set up at polling stations to facilitate these electors.
2. Telephone number of the polling station will be posted near the ramp leading to the station. If necessary, electors with mobility difficulties can contact the polling staff for assistance.
3. Through the polling station location map to be sent together with the poll card to electors, the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) will advise whether the allocated polling station is accessible to electors with mobility difficulties. If electors with mobility difficulties are allocated to an inaccessible polling station, they may apply to the REO at least five days before the polling day for re-allocation to a polling station set up in an accessible venue.
4. Where circumstances permit, the REO will try to arrange Rehabus service via the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation to transport electors with mobility difficulties to and from polling stations.
5. All accessible polling stations will be equipped with enlarged voting compartments and lower polling tables to facilitate electors who are wheelchair users.

(B) Electors with Visual impairment

1. The election website has incorporated accessible designs. Most of the information or documents on the website are convenient for browsing by persons with visual impairment with the aid of screen reading software.

2. The REO has been encouraging candidates to provide a typed text version of their “Introduction to Candidates” for uploading onto the election website to facilitate persons with visual impairment to read the relevant information with the aid of screen reading software.
3. The REO appeals to electors with visual impairment to provide their email addresses to enable the REO to email electoral information to them.
4. The number of the enquiry hotline (2891 1001) will be read out in radio Announcements of Public Interest (“APIs”) and TV APIs to facilitate persons with visual impairment to obtain information relating to electoral arrangements.
5. A web accessible version of the TV APIs will be available on the election website to facilitate electors.
6. Electors with visual impairment can call a dedicated telephone hotline to listen to information on the “Introduction to Candidates” and other electoral information.
7. A Braille list of candidates with the candidate numbers, candidates’ names and the names of prescribed bodies will be available at polling stations to facilitate electors with visual impairment to read the relevant information.
8. Braille templates will be available at polling stations to facilitate electors with visual impairment to mark the ballot papers themselves.
9. Electors with visual impairment may bring along their guide dogs into the polling stations.

(C) Electors with hearing impairment

1. Sign language interpretation and subtitles will be included in all election-related TV APIs.

2. A pictorial voting aid will be available at every polling station to assist electors with hearing impairment to understand the voting procedures. The aid will also be uploaded onto the election website for electors' reference before the poll.

(D) Ethnic minority electors

1. Electoral information published in seven ethnic minority languages (Bahasa Indonesia, Tagalog, Thai, Hindi, Nepali, Urdu and Punjabi) will be available on the election website.
2. Information on the election will be broadcast in ethnic minority languages on the radio.
3. Polling stations will be equipped with a Language Assistance Folder which will contain guides on voting procedure written in the aforesaid seven ethnic minority languages to assist ethnic minority electors in casting votes.
4. The REO will collaborate with the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (commonly known as "CHEER") to provide free interpretation service in the aforesaid seven ethnic minority languages, through the REO's dedicated telephone line, to help electors of ethnic minorities understand the voting procedures and to facilitate their making of enquiries on election-related matters.
5. Posters on polling day as well as electoral information in the aforesaid seven ethnic minority languages will be posted in eight district support centres for the ethnic minorities run by non-government organisations.

(E) Others

1. If necessary, electors can seek help from the Presiding Officer to mark the ballot paper on their behalf according to their choice inside a voting compartment with a polling officer serving as a witness.