

Question:

Mrs Lina Chiam: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (a) whether foreign politicians are allowed to conduct election campaign activities in Singapore; and (b) whether the Ministry can clarify the provisions of the Public Order Act in such a context

Answer:

1. We have always taken a strong stand against importation of foreign politics into Singapore, or attempts by foreign entities to interfere in our domestic politics and governance. We will not allow foreigners, be they politicians, social visitors or workers here, to use Singapore as a platform to conduct any political activities which contravene our laws. Foreigners who reside, work in or visit Singapore should be mindful that their activities must conform with the laws in Singapore. They should avoid actions that could be misconstrued, as had happened recently during the recent Malaysian general elections.

2. In line with this, an application submitted by a foreigner for a permit under the Public Order Act will be assessed largely based on whether the proposed public assembly or public procession involves foreign politics or has the potential to harm domestic peace and public order. Firm actions will be taken against those who contravene our laws on this.

3. This approach has helped maintain harmony and public order in Singapore, as well as good relations with other countries.
