

**MEDIA STATEMENT
20 JUNE 2013, 3PM**

STERN WARNINGS ISSUED TO SINGAPORE PRESS HOLDINGS AND ST EDITOR

1. This morning, the Singapore Police Force, acting on the directions of the Attorney-General's Chambers, administered stern warnings in lieu of prosecution to Singapore Press Holdings Ltd and Mr Warren Jude Fernandez.
2. The stern warning administered to Singapore Press Holdings Ltd was in lieu of prosecution for an offence under section 78C(1) read with section 78C(2) of the Parliamentary Elections Act committed on 10 January 2013. The Straits Times, the flagship newspaper belonging to Singapore Press Holdings Ltd, had published an article titled "ST poll: More rooting for PAP" after the Writ of Election for the Punggol East by-election had been issued, which contained the results of an election survey.
3. Mr Warren Jude Fernandez, the editor of the Straits Times, was administered with a stern warning in lieu of prosecution for an offence under section 78C(1) read with section 78C(2) and section 108(1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act. The publication of the above-mentioned article in the Straits Times on 10 January 2013 was attributable to neglect on the part of Mr Fernandez.
4. The publication of the results of any election survey during the period beginning with the day the writ of election is issued for an election and ending with the close of all polling stations on polling day at the election, is an offence punishable with up to 12 months' imprisonment and/or a fine not exceeding \$1,500. An election survey is defined to mean an opinion survey of how electors will vote at an election, or of the preferences of electors respecting any candidate or group of candidates, or any political party or issue with which an identifiable candidate, or group of candidates is associated at an election.

5. Where an offence of publishing the results of an election survey committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of —

- (a) any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate; or
- (b) any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity,

he, as well as the body corporate, shall be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Thank you.