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# Singapore Government

## PRESS RELEASE

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### THE SINGAPORE CITIZENSHIP RULES, 1985

The Singapore Citizenship Rules, 1965, will be revoked and replaced by a new set of Citizenship Rules, 1985 which will come into effect on 1 June 1985.

2 The changes to the Rules do not, however, in any way alter the law on the conditions and requirements for granting or termination of citizenship which is set out in Part X of the Constitution of Singapore. The policies on the granting of citizenship remain unchanged.

3 The existing Singapore Citizenship Rules, 1965 prescribe procedural and technical matters such as the format of the citizenship application forms, citizenship certificates and the procedure of deprivation of citizenship and cancellation of citizenship.

4 With the passage of time, several of the rules have become outdated and require amendments. Some of the rules in the existing Singapore Citizenship Rules were made when Singapore was part of Malaysia. There is provision in the Rules to grant Singapore citizenship by enrolment to persons who are Malaysian citizens. As this category of citizenship is no longer applicable after Singapore's separation from Malaysia, such rules are irrelevant and will be deleted.

5 The references in the Rules to the Articles of the Constitution are based on the previous Reprint of the Constitution (1963). As this causes confusion, it is necessary to update the references to coincide with the number of Articles in the latest Reprint of the Constitution of Singapore, 1980.

6 New citizenship application forms and citizenship certificates are introduced and this will facilitate the processing of citizenship applications.

7 The following are the other main changes in the new Singapore Citizenship Rules:

- a Under the Constitution, a minor who has been granted Singapore citizenship by registration is required to take the Oath of Renunciation, Allegiance and Loyalty within 12 months on reaching the age of 21 years. Currently, minor Singapore citizens who are residing overseas take the Oath at a Singapore Consular Office. Experience has shown that this has created difficulties for some minor citizens who do not stay near a Singapore Consular Office. To facilitate their compliance with constitutional requirements, a new provision has been made in the Singapore Citizenship Rules to enable them to take the Oath before any Singapore diplomatic or consular officer or any person authorised to administer oaths.
- b Presently, there are eight types of citizenship certificates issued for citizenship granted under the various Articles of the Constitution. Each type of certificate is different in format and design. For uniformity and better administration, a single citizenship certificate will be introduced. It will, however, continue to contain the salient information such as the Article of the Constitution under which the person has acquired Singapore citizenship and whether it was acquired by descent, conferment or registration. The new citizenship certificate will bear a photograph of the citizen.

c The citizenship application forms have also been redesigned to facilitate the processing of citizenship applications. Applicants will be required to submit a photograph of himself/herself in the application form for identification. The staff at the Registry of Citizens will assist applicants who are unable to fill up their application form.

The new Citizenship Rules and forms will come into effect on 1 June 1985. Citizenship applications made prior to that date, using old forms, will continue to be valid.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

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