



## SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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5 August 2014

### PRESS RELEASE

#### DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL INQUIRIES FOR DR KHOO BUK KWONG

1. The Singapore Medical Council (“SMC”) held two separate Disciplinary Tribunal (“DT”) inquiries for Dr Khoo Buk Kwong (“Dr Khoo”) on 11 and 12 June 2014 respectively.
2. Dr Khoo, aged 53, was a registered medical practitioner practising at Healthplus Clinic located at Blk 307, Choa Chu Kang Avenue 4 #01-697, Singapore 680307 at the material time.

#### **DT INQUIRY HELD ON 11 JUNE 2014**

3. The first DT inquiry pertains to Dr Khoo’s conviction, by way of a plea of guilt, in the Subordinate Courts of a charge of causing hurt to a police officer on duty under section 323 of the Penal Code. Dr Khoo was sentenced to two weeks’ imprisonment. Thereafter, disciplinary proceedings were initiated against Dr Khoo for having been convicted of an offence implying a defect in character which made him unfit for the medical profession. On 11 June 2014, Dr Khoo pleaded guilty, and was duly convicted, of the charge in question by the DT.
4. In mitigation, Dr Khoo explained that he had been under “tremendous” stress due to family and personal circumstances, having been adjudged a bankrupt due to failed investments since 5 August 2010. Dr Khoo also highlighted his

remorse, and that he had apologised to the police officer prior to his conviction in the Subordinate Courts.

5. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, including Dr Khoo's mitigation plea, the fact that he had indicated his intention to plead guilty at the outset, and the severity of the offence, the DT ordered that Dr Khoo:-
  - (a) be suspended from practice for a period of **3 months**;
  - (b) be censured; and
  - (c) pay the costs and expenses of and incidental to the disciplinary proceedings, including the costs of the solicitors to the SMC.
6. The DT also ordered that the Grounds of Decision be published.
7. Dr Khoo's 3-month suspension took effect from **12 July 2014 to 11 October 2014 (both dates inclusive)**.

#### **DT INQUIRY HELD ON 12 JUNE 2014**

8. In a separate proceeding, on 18 March 2011, Dr Khoo had pleaded guilty in the Subordinate Courts to 6 charges of selling poisons listed in the Schedule to the Poisons Act (Cap. 234), without a licence. Dr Khoo was sentenced to a cumulative fine of \$60,000 (in default of 60 weeks' imprisonment). As a result of this, disciplinary proceedings were initiated against Dr Khoo for having been convicted of offences implying a defect in character which made him unfit for the medical profession. On 12 June 2014, Dr Khoo pleaded guilty, and was duly convicted, of the charge in question by the DT ("the second DT").
10. In mitigation, Dr Khoo stated that he had wrongly assumed that the relevant documentation would have been sought before the company was set up and since the company had already been set up, that the company would have all the relevant documentation and necessary licence. Dr Khoo also indicated that he had merely been an employee of the company and that he had assisted the

authorities to try to stop the shipment once he knew it was illegal. Dr Khoo also indicated that he had been co-operative and complied with the investigations.

11. The second DT noted that Dr Khoo had already been fined a total of \$60,000 for the offence and he was a bankrupt. The second DT opined that under these circumstances, a penalty of a fine would not be appropriate.
12. Having reviewed the available evidence, the second DT rejected the contention that Dr Khoo had been “just an employee” who was unaware of the illegal nature of his actions. Having regard to all the circumstances of the case, including Dr Khoo’s familial circumstances, the second DT ordered that Dr Khoo:-
  - (a) be suspended for a period of **9 months**. This sentence was to run **consecutively** from, and not concurrently, with other suspension orders against him;
  - (b) be censured;
  - (c) give a written undertaking to the SMC that he will abstain in future from the conduct complained of and any similar conduct; and
  - (d) pay the cost and expenses of and incidental to these proceedings, including the costs of the solicitors to the SMC.
13. The second DT also ordered that the Grounds of Decision be published.
14. In line with the second DT’s order that the suspension run consecutively to any other order of suspension that had been imposed against him, Dr Khoo’s 9-month suspension will take effect from **12 October 2014 to 11 July 2015 (both dates inclusive)**.

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