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PRESS RELEASE

DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL INQUIRY FOR DR LIM LOK HOUW MERVIN

1. The Singapore Medical Council ("SMC") held a Disciplinary Tribunal ("DT") inquiry on 21 March 2014 for Dr Lim Lok Houw Mervin ("Dr Lim"). Dr Lim, aged 37 years, is a general practitioner.
2. The disciplinary proceedings arose from information obtained by the SMC in relation to Dr Lim's conviction for criminal offences in the Subordinate Courts of the Republic of Singapore under the Misuse of Drugs Act (Cap. 185) ("the Misuse of Drugs Act").
3. Dr Lim had been convicted on 25 February 2011 of one charge of being in possession of two (2) packets of crystalline substance containing 0.37 grams of Methamphetamine in contravention of Section 8(a) of the Misuse of Drugs Act and a further charge of being in possession of drug utensils used in connection with the consumption of a controlled drug in contravention of section 9 of the Misuse of Drugs Act, with a further two possession of controlled drug charges being taken into consideration, for which he was sentenced to a cumulative term of twelve (12) months' imprisonment.
4. Dr Lim pleaded guilty to the charge preferred against him of having been convicted of offences in Singapore implying a defect in character which made him unfit for his profession under Section 53(1)(b) of the Medical Registration Act (Cap. 174).
5. In determining the appropriate sentence to be imposed, the DT considered all the circumstances of the case including but not limited to, the following mitigating factors :-
 - (a) Dr Lim's early plea of guilt;

- (b) That Dr Lim had committed the offences on the spur of the moment, during a momentary lapse in judgment; and
 - (c) That Dr Lim had been sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment for his criminal offences and was released from prison for good behaviour after serving 8 months of imprisonment. Prior to his conviction in Court on the 25 February 2011, he was detained in the Drug Rehabilitation Unit for 4 months. Therefore, he could not have been in practice for a period of 12 months.
6. In light of all the circumstances, considering the submissions and the mitigating factors, the DT ordered that Dr Lim :-
- (a) be censured;
 - (b) give a written undertaking to the SMC that he will not engage in the conduct complained of and any similar conduct; and
 - (c) pay the cost and expenses of and incidental to these proceedings, including the costs of the solicitors to the SMC.
7. The DT also ordered that the grounds of decision be published.

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