



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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INTERIM ORDERS COMMITTEE INQUIRY FOR DR LER TECK SIANG

An Interim Orders Committee (“**IOC**”) has ordered that Dr Ler Teck Siang’s registration be suspended for a period of nine (9) months. The IOC will issue its Grounds of Decision in due course.

The Singapore Medical Council (“**SMC**”) will also consider further disciplinary action against Dr Ler.

Background

On 28 September 2018, the SMC received information from the Singapore Police Force (“**the Police**”) that on 17 September 2018, Dr Ler had been convicted in the State Courts and sentenced to 24 months’ imprisonment for four offences under the Penal Code: an offence of abetting cheating and inducing delivery of property, an offence of abetting cheating, and two offences of giving false information to a public servant (“**the Penal Code Charges**”). Dr Ler appealed against his convictions and sentence for the Penal Code Charges (“**the Appeal**”).

The SMC received further information from the Police on 2 October 2018 that Dr Ler had been charged in the State Courts for the following offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act: failing to provide a specimen of his urine to the Central Narcotics Bureau, possession of utensils intended for the consumption of a controlled drug, and drug trafficking by administering methamphetamine to another person (“**the MDA Charges**”).

On 30 January 2019, the SMC received information from the Ministry of Health about a pending charge under the Official Secrets Act against Dr Ler for failing to take reasonable care of information from a HIV registry (“**the OSA Charge**”).

While recognising that the Appeal, the MDA Charges and the OSA Charge had not been disposed of, the SMC also considered the seriousness of the convictions and the pending charges against Dr Ler and the need to maintain public confidence in the medical profession while criminal proceedings against Dr Ler were ongoing. The information on the convictions and the pending charges was therefore referred to an IOC for the purpose of determining if it was necessary for the protection of members

of the public or was otherwise in the public interest, or was in the interests of Dr Ler, that his registration be suspended or be made subject to conditions or restrictions.

In the meantime, Dr Ler's practising certificate ("**PC**") had expired on 31 December 2018, and the renewal of his PC was under review by the SMC in view of his convictions and sentence for the Penal Code Charges in September 2018.

On 7 March 2019, the IOC, upon due inquiry into the information referred to it by the SMC and after considering the submissions by Dr Ler and Counsel for the SMC, made an order under section 59B(1)(a) of the Medical Registration Act that Dr Ler's registration be suspended for a period of nine (9) months with immediate effect.

On 11 March 2019, the Appeal by Dr Ler was dismissed by the High Court. The SMC will review the matter and consider further disciplinary action against Dr Ler.