

**Statement from Commissioner of Charities Office
10 April 2013**

We refer to the media reports on the City Harvest Church case which quoted the statement by Kong Hee that he and Ho Yeow Sun had already agreed to the voluntary suspension on COC's terms, and would like to make several clarifications.

In view of the concurrent criminal proceedings, the COC had on 28 December 2012 proposed to all nine individuals that the COC would defer the next stage of any regulatory action should they collectively agree to a voluntary extension of their suspension orders.

The deadline for the consent was extended twice, and by 7 February 2013, eight out of the nine suspended individuals, including Kong Hee and Ho Yeow Sun, had initially consented to this proposal.

Even though one of the suspended individuals had declined to give consent, the COC was at that time still prepared to defer regulatory action, as he felt that the risks of that single individual's lapse of suspension order could be managed.

To avoid any doubt, the COC asked the 8 individuals on 14 March 2013 to confirm in writing that they would still agree to voluntarily extend their suspension, notwithstanding the lack of consent by the remaining individual.

However, by the final deadline of 25 March 2013, only 5 of the 8 individuals provided their consents. Kong Hee and Ho Yeow Sun were not amongst the 5 who consented, even though they had agreed to do so earlier. Please refer to Annex A for the timeline of events.

The COC could not extend the suspension of just these 5 individuals and initiate removal proceeding on the others. This is because the individual cases are linked, and adverse findings may be made which may indirectly affect or implicate those who are not part of the removal process.

Hence given the circumstances, and the lack of collective agreement among the individuals, the COC had no choice but to proceed with regulatory action.

Office of Commissioner of Charities

Timeline of Events

Date	Event
31 May 2010	COC commenced investigations into the City Harvest Church (“the Charity”).
7 February 2011	Date of the Report of the Inquiry.
26 June 2012	The COC issued a press statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inquiry revealed misconduct and mismanagement in the administration of the Charity and released details of the misconduct and mismanagement.• The COC suspended 8 individuals – Kong Hee, Lam Leng Hung, Tan Ye Peng, Kelvin Teo Meng How, Tan Shao Yuen Sharon, Chew Eng Han, Tan Su Pheng Jacqueline and Ho Yeow Sun.• This is separate and independent from criminal investigations carried out by the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD).
24 July 2012	The COC suspended Serina Wee Gek Yin.
24 August 2012	The COC suspended Ho Yeow Sun in her capacity as an employee of the Charity.
28 December 2012	In view of concurrent criminal proceedings, the COC made a <u>goodwill proposal</u> to all the 9 suspended individuals to collectively agree to a voluntary extension of their suspension orders so that he may defer the next stage of regulatory action.
By 7 February 2013	8 of the 9 suspended individuals agreed to a voluntary extension of their suspension orders.
From 22 February to 25 March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The COC was prepared to defer the next stage of regulatory action against all the 9 suspended individuals, as a concession to the 8 consenting individuals.• Given that the premise for which consent provided by the 8 consenting individuals had changed, the COC felt that it was necessary to check with the 8 consenting individuals whether they would remain agreeable to voluntarily extend their suspension.• During this period, the COC communicated with, and sought confirmation from the 8 consenting individuals if they would remain agreeable to voluntarily extend their suspension, notwithstanding the lack of consent by one individual. Extensions were given for the individuals to properly consider

Date	Event
	<p>their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only <u>5 out of the 8</u> consenting individuals eventually agreed to confirm their agreement to voluntarily extend their suspension.
9 April 2013	The COC gave notice of his intention to remove 8 individuals (Kong Hee, Lam Leng Hung, Tan Ye Peng, Kelvin Teo Meng How, Tan Shao Yuen Sharon, Chew Eng Han, Tan Su Pheng Jacqueline and Serina Wee Gek Yin) from their positions in the Charity.
13 May 2013	Deadline for the 8 individuals to make representations with respect to themselves, and for members of the public to make representations regarding the proposed removal of Kong Hee, Lam Leng Hung, Tan Ye Peng and Kelvin Teo Meng How.