

MEDIA RELEASE

Transfer of the Commissioner of Charities' functions to MCYS with effect from 1 September 2006

Six Sector Administrators appointed to assist the COC to regulate the charity sector

1. The office of the Commissioner of Charities (COC) will be transferred from the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) with effect from 1 September 2006. Mr Low Puk Yeong will assume his new appointment as the Commissioner of Charities on the same day.
2. With the transfer of the COC function to MCYS, the current 11 Central Fund Administrators (please see Annex for details) will be rationalised into 6 Sector Administrators to assist the COC to oversee the charities and Institutions of a Public Character (IPCs) in their sectors.
3. The 6 sectors and the 6 Sector Administrators are, respectively:
 - Education – Ministry of Education (MOE)
 - Health – Ministry of Health (MOH)
 - Arts and Heritage – Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA)
 - Social Services – National Council of Social Service (NCSS)
 - Community and Youth – People's Association (PA)
 - Sports – Singapore Sports Council (SSC)
4. Charities and IPCs that do not fall neatly under these sectors would continue to be regulated directly under the COC.

Roles of the Sector Administrators

5. To facilitate the Sector Administrators in carrying out their expanded role in overseeing charities in addition to IPCs, they will be delegated certain powers under the Charities Act. For example, Sector Administrators will be empowered to call for documents, search records of charities and IPCs, and appoint auditors to investigate the charities and IPCs under their purview.
6. Sector Administrators will also assist the COC to conduct field visits to charities and IPCs to better understand the charity sector and to promote good governance and best practices.
7. More information on the Sector Administrators and the new COC can be found on MCYS' website (www.mcys.gov.sg) from 1 September 2006.

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CENTRAL FUND ADMINISTRATORS (CFAs)

- CFAs were eleven agencies covering different sectors and appointed by the Ministry of Finance. They have the delegated authority to approve IPC applications in accordance with the Income Tax (Central Fund Administrators) Regulations 2004. The list of CFAs is as follows.
 - Ministry of Education (MOE) - Local Schools
 - Economic Development Board (EDB) - Foreign Universities
 - Ministry of Health (MOH) - Health Endowment Fund and the Health Endowment Research Fund
 - National Council of Social Service (NCSS) - Social Services
 - National Arts Council (NAC) - The Arts
 - Singapore Sports Council (SSC) - Sports
 - Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC) – Elite Sports
 - National Youth Council (NYC) - Youth
 - People's Association (PA) - Community Development
 - National Heritage Board (NHB) – Heritage
 - Singapore Environment Council (SEC) – Environment

- Six Sector Administrators will replace the CFAs with effect from 1 September 2006.