

PRESS STATEMENT

30 April 2007

The Commissioner of Charities de-registers three dubious charities under the amended Charities Act and rejects one application for charity status

Following the implementation of new regulations governing charity registration, public fund-raising appeals and large charities on 1 May 2007, the Commissioner of Charities (COC) announces today the removal of three charities from the Register of Charities with immediate effect. These are the Children of Singapore Foundation, Children's Lukaemia Foundation Limited, and Club Sunshine Limited (previously known as Kids-In-Distress Foundation Limited¹).

The COC has also decided not to grant charity status to Kidney Fund Organisation.

Children of Singapore Foundation, Children's Lukaemia Foundation and Club Sunshine Limited

Since October 2006, the Commissioner of Charities (COC) has been monitoring the Children of Singapore Foundation, Children's Lukaemia Foundation Limited and Club Sunshine Limited. These three charities, set up by Mr Rajendren Rajamani, have been prohibited from carrying out any public fund-raising appeals.

The COC has found serious irregularities and suspicious transactions in the administration of the charities by Mr Rajendren, and has viewed the intentions of the charities to be not exclusively charitable.

The office of the COC has also made a Police Report against Mr Rajendren for further investigation by the Police.

Kidney Fund Organisation

The Kidney Fund Organisation (KFO) was set up as a society and applied for registration as a charity with the purpose of providing financial assistance to

¹ Mr Rajendren had since transferred the Kids-In-Distress and Children's Lukaemia Foundation to some new trustees in October and November 2006 respectively. The Kids-In-Distress has been renamed as Club Sunshine Ltd.

kidney patients for their treatments and other needy patients such as those suffering from chronic illnesses.

After careful scrutiny, the COC has decided not to grant charity status to KFO. The COC is satisfied that the organisation's intentions were not exclusively charitable as the bulk of the donations it had collected did not benefit the charitable causes. The total amount of donations collected was about \$110,000 in year 2006. Only a small fraction of the donations received were disbursed to a few beneficiaries. About 75% of the donations were used to pay for the engagement of a commercial fund-raising company, Amanah Fitrah, which is owned by KFO's Vice-President, whose wife is also the President of KFO. The other trustee of KFO is also an employee of the commercial fund-raising company. Such a close relationship has posed a serious conflict of interest.

To protect the interest of the donating public, the COC has also decided to prohibit the Kidney Fund Organisation from any public fund-raising with effect from 3 May 2007.

Issued by

Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports
2 May 2007