

1 MARCH 2013

AGC MOVES TO 1 UPPER PICKERING STREET

1. On 4 March 2013, AGC will operate from its new premises at 1 Upper Pickering Street, located at the junction of Upper Pickering Street and New Bridge Road (see Annex A). Our office will be closed on 1 March (Friday) for us to make the move.
2. The building is located within walking distance of the Subordinate Courts, where more than 90 per cent of the court cases that the AGC handles are dealt with. The 15-storey building at 1 Upper Pickering Street will house more than 500 legal and non-legal AGC officers from six legal divisions and two support divisions across 10 floors. The set-up in the new building was aligned with the functional requirements of AGC and involved close consultation with AGC officers.
3. The move marks AGC's return to the Chinatown area after 40 years (see Annex B for more details). From 1965 to 1971, AGC occupied the Chinese Protectorate Building at the Havelock Road site (built in 1886) where the Family Court now sits. Pickering Street – originally known as Macau Street – was named after William Alexander Pickering C.M.G., who was appointed the first head of the Chinese Protectorate in 1877.
4. AGC has to move from The Adelphi – which AGC has occupied for the last 22 years across several units – because the premises at The Adelphi was not able to accommodate AGC's long-term needs and the landlord has other plans for the various units occupied by AGC.
5. AGC's new premises has several new features:

(i) Dedicated interview rooms

Instead of meeting investigation officers and potential witnesses in their office, prosecutors now have dedicated interview rooms for discussion and interviews. This allows for enhanced office security and confidentiality of files and matters discussed.

(ii) Special interview rooms for vulnerable and child witnesses:

Recognising that vulnerable witnesses or victims such as young children, intellectually challenged persons and victims of sexual offences require emotional support when being interviewed by prosecutors, AGC equipped its new premises with two special interview

rooms. The rooms are designed and furnished in consultation with child psychiatrists, psychologists and Child Protection Officers to provide a conducive and reassuring environment for these vulnerable witnesses. A scale model of a courtroom will be available in the rooms to help the witnesses acquaint themselves with the courtroom environment. The special interview rooms will also be equipped with the necessary interview tools such as a doll house and an anatomy doll to help the witnesses explain what happened.

(iii) Video-Conferencing Centre connected to the Subordinate Courts, the Supreme Court and Changi Prison Complex:

The building will have more video-conferencing rooms with video-links for Pre-trial Conferences and Criminal Case Disclosure Conferences among the Prosecution, the courts (where the judges and the defence counsel will be present) and the accused persons who are remanded in Changi Prison Complex, thus saving the time and resources needed for case officers and accused persons in remand to travel to court.

(iv) Moot court:

To facilitate effective training for AGC officers, the new premises comprise a small purpose-built moot court where advocacy training, as well as speech and vocal training will be conducted. Its set-up simulates an actual court room and is equipped with video and audio recording to facilitate advocacy training.

6. The move will also allow AGC to have better general security and work processes. Before the move, AGC officers were housed in disparate office units within The Adelphi as well as a unit in the Treasury Building which created inefficient workflow. In addition, common facilities such as passenger lifts were shared with other tenants and member of public in The Adelphi. Using the common lifts to move confidential case files within divisions (housed on three separate levels) presented some security concerns.
7. In the new premises, workflow is streamlined with centralised reception. Security arrangements are enhanced with X-ray screening and registration for visitors. As the entire building is occupied by AGC, the security of the movement of files and documents within the building is improved.
8. AGC is pleased to note that the 1 UPS building was awarded the Green Mark Platinum Award from the Building and Construction Authority in 2012 and the Solar Pioneer Award from the Energy Innovation Programme Office in 2011. The open plan floors are designed to maximise natural light penetration and the lift lobbies on the office floors are not air-conditioned.

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ANNEX A: LOCATION MAP



AGC at 1 Upper Pickering Street

ANNEX B: HISTORICAL LOCATIONS OF THE AGC

The Attorney-General's Chambers is almost 150-years-old and has made its home at various locations in central Singapore over the years.

The following is a timeline of where the AGC was located post-WW2:

- From 1949 to 1959, the AGC was at the Old Parliament House in 1 Empress Place. It is now the Asian Civilisations Museum.
- From 1965 to 1971, the AGC was at the Old Chinese Protectorate Building (now the Family Court) in Havelock Road.
- From 1971 to 1991, the AGC was located in High Street in a building which is now part of the Parliament House Complex.
- From 1991 to 2012, the AGC was housed in The Adelphi initially on the 9th and 10th floors and subsequently also on the 5th floor.