



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
29 SEPTEMBER 2018

**SOCCER FRIENDLY BETWEEN PLAYERS FROM
THE AGC, CRIMINAL BAR AND THE YELLOW RIBBON PROJECT
AT 5TH AG'S CHALLENGE CUP**

The fifth edition of the AG's Challenge Cup, which took place on Friday evening, 28 September 2018 at Jalan Besar Stadium, saw a new unique component this year. The annual friendly football match between the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) and lawyers from the Criminal Bar featured a special 20-minute 7-aside football match involving mixed teams of deputy public prosecutors, defence counsels and players from the Yellow Ribbon Project, in a bid to develop goodwill between the various stakeholders in the criminal justice system and to support the reintegration of former inmates back into society.

2 The players from the Yellow Ribbon project were ex-residents from Pertapis Halfway House. 41 year-old Daniel is one of the ex-residents who participated in the match. He had previously been convicted of drug-related offences and was imprisoned but given an early release for good behaviour and has been working as a mover crew since May 2017. He said, "I am very excited to be able to play alongside prosecutors and defence counsels. Before the game started, we were given time to mingle with each other. The interaction was very warm. I would definitely want to take part in the game again, and would also encourage the other ex-residents to do so as well. It is an enriching experience."

3 The mixed team football friendly was mooted by the Chairman of the AG's Challenge Cup organizing committee, Mr Lim Kia Tong, who is also the President of the Football Association of Singapore (FAS) and a member of the Law Society of Singapore. Mr Lim explained that the tournament and the mixed team football friendly were closely aligned with FAS' mission and values, including enhancing the lives of others through recreational football and building inclusiveness and openness. He stated, "At the FAS we are well

aware of the power that our beautiful game has in bringing people together. Football is able to rally and unify people from all segments of the community.

4 That is why for this fifth edition of the AGC Challenge Cup 2018, it dawned on the Organising Committee that whilst the AGC Crime Cluster and the Criminal Bar partake in this football event to foster and cement the relationship amongst us, we should also bring into our fold and on our noble platform our friends from the Yellow Ribbon Project and embrace them in their tireless efforts in integrating back to society and in trying to positively energise their lives. We strongly believe that football will enhance the goodwill and understanding amongst these three elements of society.”

5 The President of the Law Society, Mr Gregory Vijayendran, added, “It was poignant to have the Yellow Ribbon Curtain Raiser for this year's AG Challenge Cup. It was truly moving and meaningful for us in the Law Society to have our ex-offenders in the right courts with both prosecution and defence.

6 Both the AGC and Criminal Bar are invaluable players in the administration of criminal justice in Singapore. Members of the Law Society are committed to building a democratic society based on justice and equality. While no one is above the law, no one should find access to justice beyond their reach. The Law Society is committed to the same sacrosanct ideals of justice and equality as the AGC as well as to the rule of law and efficient administration of criminal justice. What unites us is far greater than what divides us.”

7 The Attorney-General, Mr Lucien Wong, also commented about the curtain-raiser, “The format of the game was deliberate and I think it drives home an important point. Regardless of where we stand in the criminal justice system, whether as an advocate or an offender, whether as the representative of the state or the representative of a client, we have one singular purpose – to build a just and prosperous society for all. There is no sharp line between who we punish and who we protect. There are only the values and interests that we safeguard. It is not about who we fight against, but what we fight for.”

8 The AG’s Challenge Cup started in March 2012 as an initiative by then-Attorney-General Sundaresh Menon to foster better interaction and friendship between the public prosecutors from the AGC and lawyers from the Criminal Bar.

* * *

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

For queries, please contact:

Ms Jade Chen
Manager
Tel: 6908 8244
Email: jade_chen@agc.gov.sg

Ms Lai Xue Ying
Manager
Tel: 6908 3067
Email: lai_xue_ying@agc.gov.sg

Background of Pertapis Halfway House

With a capacity for 100 offenders, Pertapis Halfway House is the first Malay Muslim Halfway House in Singapore.

2 It was launched in 1989, to provide treatment and rehabilitation services to substance abusers, enabling them to reintegrate into society and be active contributors. Offenders at the tail end of their prison sentences are usually transferred to the halfway house to undergo community-based rehabilitation programmes.

3 They undertake life skill classes such as IT courses, interview workshops and resume-building lessons that prepares them for eventual employment upon release.