

**FORUM ON PUBLIC PROSECUTION 2013:
PROSECUTING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

6 March 2013

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL KOH JUAT JONG

1. Good morning Attorney-General, colleagues and friends. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you to this inaugural Forum on Public Prosecution.
2. This Forum was first mooted in July 2012 by the Crime Cluster Divisions of the Attorney-General's Chambers. The purpose is to underline and reinforce the importance of maintaining high standards in the prosecution service. Prosecution is conducted not only by prosecutors in the AGC but also by many of you who are here as prosecuting officers in the various prosecuting agencies, Ministries and Statutory Boards.
3. The forum is necessary especially in the light of greater public scrutiny over criminal prosecutions. It is also timely because of the changing legal landscape which has posed new challenges for our Prosecutors. The new Criminal Procedure Code came into force in January 2011 brought about many changes in the criminal process. The Court of Appeal's landmark decision on disclosure in the *Kadar* case also created a huge impact on prosecutorial pre-trial discovery.
4. A series of highly relevant topics have been planned for the next 2 days. These include discussions on the Conduct of a Prosecutor, the exercise of Prosecutorial Discretion in a Changing Landscape, Training for Prosecutors, Important Considerations for PG hearings as well as the Conduct of a Trial and of course, a session on Prosecution Disclosure which is expected to generate lively exchanges. There will also be a panel discussion dealing with issues relating to the setting up of a Prosecution Department, as well as a session on the Media and Accountability in Public Prosecutions.

5. Apart from speakers and panelists from the AGC Crime Cluster Divisions, Ministries and Statutory Boards, we have tapped on the expertise of other eminent external speakers. They include:
 - a. retired High Court Judge Mr Kan Ting Chiu; and
 - b. Senior District Judge Mr See Kee Oon.
6. We were hoping to have a turnout of about 180 departmental prosecutors and senior management personnel for the Forum, but the response has been overwhelming. We now have 280 registered participants from 36 government agencies. In particular, I would welcome specially our foreign participants from :
 - a. the Attorney-General's Chambers and Narcotics Control Bureau of Brunei Darussalam;
 - b. the Union Attorney General's Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; and
 - c. the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam.

This is therefore a wonderful opportunity to get together to make new friends and to renew friendship with fellow prosecutors.

7. Such a gathering of prosecutors from so many agencies has been made possible with the kind assistance of the Subordinate Courts by not fixing any court matters handled by departmental prosecutors for today and tomorrow and we are grateful for the support of the Subordinate Courts.
8. It is my sincere hope that you will find the sessions in the next two days engaging and enriching and you leave the sessions motivated and passionate about the importance of keeping high standards in criminal prosecution.
9. At this time, it gives me great pleasure to invite Attorney-General Mr Steven Chong to deliver the Keynote Address.

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