



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**4 AUGUST 2017**

**APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO COMMENCE  
COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST LI SHENGWU**

The Attorney-General's Chambers ("AGC") will today file an application in the High Court for leave to commence committal proceedings against Mr Li Shengwu for contempt of court in connection with the publication of a Facebook post.

2 On 15 July 2017, Mr Li posted on his Facebook page (url: [www.facebook.com/li.shengwu01](http://www.facebook.com/li.shengwu01)) the following: "*If you've been watching the latest political crisis in Singapore from a distance, but would like a summary, this is a good one. (Keep in mind, of course, that the Singapore government is very litigious and has a pliant court system. This constrains what the international media can usually report – <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/04/opinion/04pubed.html>)*" ("the Post"). The Post contained a link to an April 2010 editorial published by the New York Times, entitled "Censored in Singapore".

3 Mr Li's Post was republished widely in Singapore after it was posted. On 21 July 2017, the AGC issued a letter of warning to Mr Li about the Post. In our letter, the AGC had asked that Mr Li purge the contempt, by doing the following by 5 pm on 28 July 2017:

- (a) delete and remove the Post from his Facebook page and any other social/online media and other documents in his possession, custody or control; and
- (b) issue and post prominently a written apology and undertaking in the terms stated in the AGC's letter on his Facebook page.

A copy of AGC's letter dated 21 July 2017 is attached as Annex A.

4 On 27 July 2017, Mr Li wrote to the AGC to request an extension of time till 5 pm on 4 August 2017 to respond to the AGC's letter. The AGC agreed to Mr Li's request on the same day. A copy of Mr Li's letter and the AGC's response are attached as Annex B.

5 As Mr Li has failed to purge the contempt and to apologise by the extended deadline, an application for leave to commence committal proceedings for contempt against him will today be filed in the High Court.

\* \* \*

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS  
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

For queries, please contact:

Ms Lai Xue Ying  
Manager  
Tel: 6908 3067  
Email: [lai\\_xue\\_ying@agc.gov.sg](mailto:lai_xue_ying@agc.gov.sg)

# **Annex A**



Email: AGC@agc.gov.sg  
Telephone: +65 6908 9000

**AGC** | ATTORNEY-  
SINGAPORE | GENERAL'S  
CHAMBERS

**By Registered Post and Email**

No. of pages ( 3 )

Our Ref: AG/CIV/DM/AGC/2017/1

21 July 2017

Mr Li Shengwu

Dear Sir,

### **CONTEMPT OF COURT**

1. On 15 July 2017, you posted on your FaceBook page (url: [www.facebook.com/li.shengwu01](http://www.facebook.com/li.shengwu01)) the following statement: “Keep in mind, of course, that the Singapore government is very litigious and has a pliant court system. This constrains what the international media can usually report.” (“the Post”). The Post was followed by a link to an editorial published by the New York Times in April 2010 entitled “Censored in Singapore” (“the Article”).

2. The Article, *inter alia*, described the Singapore Government as an authoritarian regime which aggressively uses the Singapore judicial system to silence its critics, even where such criticisms are fair or valid. The Article also described the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew as the designer of “draconian press laws”, which have been used to suppress legitimate criticism.

3. The clear meaning of the Post, in referring to “a pliant court system”, is that the Singapore Judiciary acts on the direction of the Singapore Government, is not independent, and has ruled and will continue to rule in favour of the Singapore Government in any proceedings, regardless of the merits of the case. This assertion is reinforced by your reference to, and clear endorsement of, the Article.

4. The Post was republished widely in Singapore shortly after it was posted. This was an entirely foreseeable consequence, in light of various circumstances including the following:

- (a) that you are the grandson of the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew;

- (b) the highly inflammatory nature of your assertions, in particular against the independence of the Singapore Judiciary. These assertions directly contradict Mr Lee Kuan Yew's values and the judicial system which he spent his entire public life upholding and defending, and would therefore be very topical; and
- (c) the timing of the Post, coming shortly after a highly publicised debate in Singapore, including in the Singapore Parliament, in respect of allegations by members of your family against the Prime Minister of abuse of power, and your postings publicly supporting your family.

5. The Post is an egregious and baseless attack on the Singapore Judiciary and constitutes an offence of contempt of court.

6. We ask that you purge the contempt, by doing the following:

- (a) delete and remove the Post from your FaceBook page and any other social/online media and other documents in your possession, custody or control;
- (b) sign a written apology and undertaking in terms of the draft enclosed; and
- (c) issue the said signed written apology and undertaking by posting the same prominently on your FaceBook page.

7. Please comply with paragraph 6 above by 5.00pm on 28 July 2017.

Yours faithfully,



Francis Ng, SC  
Senior State Counsel  
Attorney-General's Chambers

Encl: Draft apology and undertaking

To: Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore

### **LETTER OF APOLOGY AND UNDERTAKING**

I made a FaceBook post on 15 July 2017 where I made false and baseless allegations about the lack of independence of the Singapore Judiciary.

2 I accept that the assertions in the post were wrong, and are in contempt of the Singapore Judiciary. I regret my actions and apologise unreservedly for the same.

3 I have deleted the post from my FaceBook page and on all other media in my possession or control. I hereby undertake not to repeat the allegations, or make any further similar allegations.

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Li Shengwu  
[DATE]

# **Annex B**

27 July 2017  
Francis Ng, SC

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter dated 21 July 2017, which was received in Singapore on 26 July 2017.

Please let me have till 5 pm on 4 August so that I may seek advice and respond.

Sincerely,



Li Shengwu  
Junior Fellow  
Harvard Society of Fellows





Our Ref: AG/CIV/DM/AGC/2017/1

27 July 2017

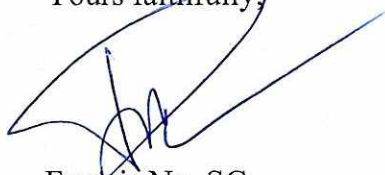
Mr Li Shengwu

Dear Sir,

**CONTEMPT OF COURT**

1. We refer to our letter of 21 July 2017 and your letter of 27 July 2017, which we received at approximately 10.15am this morning, acknowledging receipt of our aforesaid letter.
2. We agree to your request to extend the time for compliance with paragraph 6 of our letter to 5.00pm on 4 August 2017.
3. An email titled "AG/CIV/DM/AGC/2017/1 – CONTEMPT OF COURT" with a copy of our letter of 21 July 2017 attached was also sent by these Chambers to you at [shengwu\\_li@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:shengwu_li@fas.harvard.edu) at about 4.32pm on 21 July 2017. Please confirm that you have also received the aforesaid email and the attached copy of our letter of 21 July 2017. A copy of this letter is also being sent to the above email address.

Yours faithfully,



Francis Ng, SC  
Senior State Counsel  
Attorney-General's Chambers