



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ORCHARD TOWERS MURDER:
ALLEGATIONS OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR
DIFFERENT RACES IN SENTENCING ARE FALSE AND BASELESS**

The Attorney-General's Chambers ("AGC") is aware of social media posts alleging preferential treatment of accused persons involved in the death of 31-year-old Satheesh Noel s/o Gobidass at Orchard Towers on 2 July 2019, based on their race.

2 Any allegation that the Court imposes sentences on offenders on account of their race, and imposes harsher sentences if they are a member of a minority race, is categorically false and baseless.

3 Seven individuals were initially charged with murder for the Orchard Towers incident. After thorough investigations, six individuals were found not to be involved in causing the death of the deceased, and the charges against them were reduced. The murder charge preferred against Tan Sen Yang remains unchanged. At no point did the Police and AGC take the race of the deceased and the seven individuals into consideration in its decision.

4 The Court has dealt with three of the seven individuals. Joel Tan Yun Sheng, Ang Da Yuan and Natalie Siow Yu Zhen pleaded guilty and were given imprisonment sentences. Joel Tan was convicted of one count of voluntarily causing hurt with common intention, while Ang and Siow were convicted of one count of voluntarily causing hurt with common intention, and one count of consorting with a person (Tan Sen Yang) carrying an offensive weapon in a public place. Joel Tan, who was untraced, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment, while Ang was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment and six strokes of the cane. Siow, who was untraced, was sentenced to five months' imprisonment – this is in addition to the 107 days (approximately 3.5 months) which she had earlier spent in remand. In calibrating her sentence, Siow received an uplift of three months as she was not liable to be caned.

5 The sentences imposed for voluntarily causing hurt with common intention were in line with the sentencing guidelines issued by the High Court in *Low Song Chye v PP and Or* [2019] 5 SLR 526. The sentences imposed for consorting with a person carrying an offensive weapon were in line with the guidance published by the Court in *Sentencing Practice in the Subordinate Courts*.

6 Chan Jia Xing was charged with consorting with a person carrying an offensive weapon in a public place. After considering the facts of the case and the extent of Chan's involvement, including that he tried to stop the attack on the deceased, and his cooperation with police investigations, AGC directed the Police to issue Chan with a 12-month conditional warning. The charge against Chan may be revived against him should he re-offend within the 12-month period.

7 Allegations of preferential treatment for different races are baseless and have the potential to disrupt racial harmony in Singapore, causing irreversible divisions in our communities. AGC has directed the Police to investigate the individuals responsible for a number of social media posts that are potentially in contempt of court. AGC will not hesitate to take action against those who fall foul of the law.

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