



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
19 JULY 2022

**MEMORIAL FOOTBALL MATCH FOR MR GNANASIHAMANI
KANNAN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY AGC AND THE CRIMINAL BAR**

In memory of Mr Gnanasihamani Kannan, who passed away on 14 June 2022, the Attorney-General's Chambers ("AGC") and the Criminal Bar held a football match at Jalan Besar Stadium on 19 July 2022.

2 Mr Kannan was a Senior Director and Senior State Counsel in the AGC's Crime Division. He was well respected by all who worked with him, both fellow prosecutors and defence counsel. It was in that spirit that the match featured two mixed teams comprising officers from AGC, the Judiciary, members of the Criminal Bar and officers from the Ministry of Manpower (where Mr Kannan was posted earlier in his career).

3 An outstanding prosecutor, Mr Kannan was involved in significant initiatives, including the setting up of a taskforce in AGC to combat match-fixing. This taskforce developed Singapore's capability in investigating and prosecuting match-fixing offences, and improved Singapore's reputation in the international sporting scene. Under Mr Kannan's leadership, the taskforce contributed to the international effort to combat such offences and oversaw several high-profile match-fixing prosecutions, such as *PP v Rajendran s/o R Kurusamy and others*, a case involving the fixing of the 2015 South-East Asian Games football match between Timor-Leste and Malaysia.

4 Deputy Attorney-General, Mr Hri Kumar Nair, S.C, said, "The strong turnout from the Criminal Bar, Judiciary and AGC tonight is a testament to the positive impact that Kannan had made, both professionally and personally, in our lives. Kannan was a huge football fan, and tonight's match was a fitting and moving tribute for our colleague and friend. He will be missed by all of us. In our celebration of his life and many achievements, our thoughts are with his family who loved him most."

5 President of the Association of Criminal Lawyers of Singapore, Mr Sunil Sudheesan, said, “G Kannan will be missed. He was a tough but fair opponent and brought a touch of elegance and panache to the courtroom. He was well respected by the Bar and his loss is a loss for our criminal justice system. The Criminal Bar could not think of a better way to honour him than with briyani and football. Our condolences go out to his family and to those who held him close to their hearts.”

6 Mr Lim Kia Tong, President of the Football Association of Singapore (“FAS”) and a veteran criminal lawyer who had dealt with many cases prosecuted by Mr Kannan in the past, played an instrumental role in organising the match. He said, “I had known G Kannan for many years both as a defence counsel and as an official of Singapore’s football governing body. My most memorable time with Kannan was when we were working together hand in glove since 2015 in trying to rid the beautiful game of football of match manipulation. I could see that as someone who loved the game, Kannan was unflinching in wanting to maintain a high integrity and cleanliness from the cancer that could tarnish and erode the sport. Kannan was not satisfied with just knowing about the match manipulation issues at the local level. He asked for my assistance to connect with the relevant people at the FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). He wanted to know how the match corruption in other countries happened and how FIFA and the AFC handled them. I salute Kannan for all that he had done for football to the extent that I even appeared as a witness for the Prosecution in a football corruption case. Thus, it is a very fitting gesture to Kannan that a football memorial match is being held in honour of him. FAS is very happy to support and help execute this heart-warming gesture by the AGC and the Criminal Bar to hold a match in memory of Kannan.”

7 Mr Kannan was also known for his generosity of spirit and passion for football. In recognition of his desire to give back to the sport, a donation of S\$16,000 was made in his name to SportCares¹, the philanthropic arm of Sport Singapore. The donation was collected from the match participants, Mr Kannan’s colleagues, members of the Criminal Bar, as well as family and friends of Mr Kannan. A cheque was presented by Deputy Attorney-General Nair to Mr Shawn Lim, Director of SportCares.

8 AGC would like to thank FAS for its support for this meaningful event.

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¹ More info on SportCares can be found at <https://sportcares.sportsingapore.gov.sg>.

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ANNEX A – Biography of Mr Gnanasihamani Kannan

Mr Kannan first joined AGC in 1995 and had over 20 years' experience as a prosecutor. He also served for 5 years in the Legal Services Department in the Ministry of Manpower. During his time in AGC, he was involved in the prosecution of many significant cases, including *PP v Lim Oon Kuin*, *PP v Gosling Andrew*, and *PP v Ai Takagi & Yang Kaiheng*.

In addition, Mr Kannan was part of the team from AGC that led evidence during the 2018 Committee of Inquiry ("COI") into the Cyberattack on Singapore Health Services Pte Ltd's Patient Database. His deep understanding of technology and computer systems was instrumental in enabling the AGC team to piece together and present the contributing factors of the incident, and make recommendations for, among others, better protection against similar cybersecurity attacks, which were accepted by the COI.

Mr Kannan's expertise and experience as a pioneer in the fields of technology crime and digital evidence have been recognised internationally, and he was invited to be involved in various United Nations and Commonwealth expert groups on cybercrime.

Mr Kannan passed away due to an accident on 14 June 2022 while on overseas leave. He was 52.