



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9 OCTOBER 2018**

**JOLOVAN WHAM AND JOHN TAN FOUND GUILTY OF
SCANDALISING THE SINGAPORE JUDICIARY,
FIRST CONVICTIONS UNDER
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (PROTECTION) ACT 2016**

On 9 October 2018, the High Court found Mr Wham Kwok Han Jolovan and Mr Tan Liang Joo John guilty of contempt of court in relation to the intentional publication of their 27 April 2018 (“Mr Wham’s Facebook post”) and 6 May 2018 (“Mr Tan’s Facebook post”) Facebook posts respectively. These are the first convictions for contempt of court by scandalising the judiciary under the Administration of Justice (Protection) Act 2016, which came into effect on 1 October 2017. Sentencing has been adjourned to a date after 7 November 2018.

2 The Attorney-General’s Chambers (“AGC”) had earlier, on 11 May 2018, applied to the High Court for orders of committal for contempt of court against Mr Wham and Mr Tan in connection with the publication of their Facebook posts.

3 Mr Wham’s Facebook post wrongfully alleged that the Singapore courts lack integrity and are not impartial in the discharge of judicial duties in cases where the Government of Singapore or political office holders are litigants, deciding such cases in favour of the Government of Singapore or political office holders regardless of their merits. Mr Tan’s Facebook post wrongfully asserted that Mr Wham’s Facebook post is true.

4 By publishing their Facebook posts, Mr Wham and Mr Tan impugned the impartiality and integrity of Singapore’s judicial system and posed a risk that public confidence in the administration of justice would be undermined. Mr Wham and Mr Tan thereby scandalised the Singapore courts within the meaning of s 3(1)(a) of the Administration of Justice (Protection) Act 2016.

5 Contempt of court in its various forms harms the proper administration of justice in Singapore. Left unchecked, such conduct can obstruct the determination of the truth and erode respect for our judicial institutions. This would in turn harm the public interest in the proper administration of justice. AGC will take firm action against contempt of court, including the institution of committal proceedings in appropriate instances.

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