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**PRESS RELEASE
5 APRIL 2012, 1 PM**

Attorney General v Vellama D/O Marie Muthu
Civil Appeal No. 35 of 2012
Summons No. 1676 of 2012

The Attorney-General has lodged an appeal against the order made by Justice Pillai on Tuesday 3 April 2012 granting leave to the Plaintiff to seek certain orders in relation to the convening of a by-election arising from the vacation of the Parliamentary seat for the electoral division of Hougang. Leave must first be obtained in judicial review proceedings so that cases which are misconceived or unarguable can be weeded out. This was the basis on which the Attorney-General had objected to the grant of leave.

2 As the Attorney-General has filed an appeal against Justice Pillai's decision to grant leave, the hearing which had been earlier been fixed for 16 April 2012 cannot go on until the Attorney-General's appeal has been heard by the Court of Appeal and disposed of.

3 Throughout the proceedings, the Plaintiff has claimed that her application is urgent and the issues she has raised need to be addressed immediately. Being mindful of the Plaintiff's claims of urgency, the Attorney-General applied to the Court of Appeal to have the appeal heard expeditiously anytime before the 16 April 2012.

4 Appeals can ordinarily take at least 4 or 5 months to be heard. An expedited appeal can be heard and disposed of quickly.

5 Counsel for the Attorney-General attended before Justice of Appeal Andrew Phang today at 10.30 a.m. The Plaintiff's counsel objected to the Attorney-General's application for an expedited appeal. The Plaintiff's counsel maintained that the appeal should not be heard until after Justice Pillai has issued his grounds of decision. In the course of the hearing, the Plaintiff's counsel suggested to the Judge that the Attorney-General's appeal could be scheduled for hearing 2 weeks after Justice Pillai issues his grounds of decision.

6 On the basis of the position taken by the Plaintiff's counsel, the Judge has vacated the hearing on 16 April 2012 and has directed that the Attorney-General's appeal will be fixed for hearing after Justice Pillai issues his grounds of decision.

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