

**MEDIA STATEMENT
17 DECEMBER 2013**

**AGC'S APPLICATION TO THE COURT OF APPEAL
TO PROCEED AGAINST AU WAI PANG FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT**

1. On 14 November 2013, the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) filed an application in the High Court to seek the Court's leave (ie. permission) to proceed against Au Wai Pang (Au) for contempt of court in respect of two articles published by him on his blog, yawningbread.wordpress.com.
2. On 27 November 2013, the High Court granted leave in respect of the article: "*377 wheels come off Supreme Court's best laid plans*", published on 5 October 2013. The court did not grant leave in respect of the second article: "*Church sacks employee and sues government – on one ground right, on another ground wrong*", published on 12 October 2013.
3. The AGC has filed an application in respect of the second article to the Court of Appeal, seeking leave to proceed against Au for contempt of court. It is in the public interest that the law in this area is clear, so that there is clarity on what material is, and what material is not, in contempt of court.
4. The Rules of Court expressly permit an application to be made to the Court of Appeal for leave to proceed against Au in the event that leave is refused by the High Court. The application is *ex parte* in nature, which means that the application will be heard by the Court of Appeal without Au's presence. The purpose of the application before the Court of Appeal is to allow the Court to assess whether there is sufficient basis to proceed against Au in respect of the second article notwithstanding the refusal of leave by the High Court. If the Court of Appeal grants leave, Au will have every opportunity to respond to the case against him.

5. On 13 December 2013, the AGC applied for the hearing before the Court of Appeal to be on an expedited basis. The application was granted, and the hearing of the application is fixed for the week commencing 24 February 2014.

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For additional information on Contempt of Court, please visit Attorney-General's Chambers' website at https://app.agc.gov.sg/Understanding_Legal_Processes.aspx

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Thank you.