

FACTSHEET ON CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2014

The Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Bill 2014 will propose the following amendments:

i Appointment of International Judges

The Bill will provide for the appointment of International Judges in the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC). They will be appointed for a specified period to hear specific cases or classes of cases as and when assigned by the Chief Justice. This is part of the suite of legislative amendments being introduced to establish the SICC.

ii Appointment of Senior Judges

The Bill will also provide for the appointment of former Judges of the Supreme Court as Senior Judges to hear cases before the High Court (including the SICC) or Court of Appeal. The objective behind the introduction of this new judicial appointment is to empower the Chief Justice to call on such judges from time to time, to ease the hearing load of the Supreme Court and to allow the Court to tap into particular areas of specialist legal expertise of retired judges.

iii Gratuity Plan for Judicial and Statutory Appointment Holders

When the salary framework for public officers was reviewed in 2013, it was announced in Parliament that the pension plan for Judicial and other Statutory Appointment Holders will be replaced by a gratuity plan. Constitutional amendments are required to give effect to these changes that were announced. With the proposed amendments to the Constitution, new Judicial¹ and Statutory² Appointment Holders will be placed on a gratuity plan. There will also be related amendments in the Judges' Remuneration (Amendment) Bill 2014 for Judicial Appointment Holders.

iv Office of Deputy Attorney-General

This will allow the President, on the advice of the Prime Minister, to appoint one or more Deputy Attorneys-General from individuals who are eligible for appointment as the Attorney-General. This is a constitutional appointment

¹ Judicial Appointment Holders in this section refer to the Chief Justice, Judges of Appeal and Judges of the High Court. It does not include Judicial Commissioners and the proposed appointments of International Judges and Senior Judges of the Supreme Court.

² Statutory Appointment Holders in this section refer to the Attorney-General, Auditor-General and Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

where the Deputy Attorney-General is accorded the status of a High Court judge.

A new Office of Deputy Attorney-General will be established. The Deputy Attorney-General will be subject to the general direction and control of the Attorney-General. The Deputy Attorney-General will be responsible to the Attorney-General and discharge such duties of the Attorney-General as the Attorney-General may assign.

v Composition of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights

The Presidential Council for Minority Rights (“PCMR”) plays an important role in upholding racial and religious harmony in Singapore. Presently, the PCMR consists of a Chairman, not more than 10 permanent members appointed for life and not more than 10 other members appointed for a period of 3 years. The composition of the PCMR will be amended such that it will consist of a Chairman and up to 20 members, with not more than 10 permanent members appointed for life. This will ensure that the PCMR remains representative of the major races and religious groups in Singapore.

vi Reflecting the Change of Name of the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Pte. Ltd. to GIC Pte. Ltd.

The amendments to Article 142 and the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution reflect the change of name of the “Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Pte. Ltd.” to “GIC Pte. Ltd.” The name change formalises the widely-used brand name of “GIC” in the global investment community and markets that GIC operates in. For more information, please refer to the press release issued by GIC on 23 July 2013³.

About the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore

The Constitution of the Republic of Singapore is the supreme law of the Republic of Singapore. It sets out, among other things, the functions and powers of the President, the Executive (including the Attorney-General), the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Presidential Council for Minority Rights.

**ATTORNEY-GENERAL’S CHAMBERS
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
MINISTRY OF LAW
PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISION (PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE)
7 OCTOBER 2014**

³ Press Release on GIC (23 July 2013):
http://www.gic.com.sg/images/gic/Newsroom/NewsRelease_Shortening_of_co_name_Final.pdf