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SINGAPORE
ROUND-UPPSYCHIATRIST SUSPENDED
FOR SEX WITH PATIENT

PSYCHIATRIST Kong Sim Guan, 63, has been suspended for three years and fined \$10,000 for professional misconduct, the Singapore Medical Council said yesterday.

Kong had a sexual relationship with a woman while she was his patient, and continued the affair for about 12 years. He practised at a Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre clinic.

TEENAGE GIRLS ARRESTED
OVER ONLINE CHEATING

POLICE yesterday arrested two 16-year-old girls for involvement in serial online cheating.

They had allegedly offered cheap Polaroid cameras and film on Facebook.

Initial investigations showed that the suspects cheated at least 70 people of about \$12,000 between May and last month.

SOON: LOWER DEPOSIT FOR
STANDARD TRAIN TICKET

MRT and LRT passengers can purchase a new standard ticket for train rides from November.

The current \$1 deposit will be reduced to 10 cents with the introduction of the new ticket. To encourage passengers to reuse the ticket, the 10-cent deposit will be returned to the passenger on the third trip, in the form of a reduced fare.

Public broadcasts to go on Net, pay-TV

BY GERRARD LAI

PUBLIC Service Broadcast programmes – which aim to promote social cohesion and national identity – will soon make the leap from solely being **broadcast** on free-to-air TV to online and pay-TV platforms, announced the Media Development Authority (MDA) yesterday.

This will take place through a contestable funds scheme, which will be part of a \$630-million **funding** that the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA) is doling out over the next five years.

It comes in the wake of recommendations by the Public Service Broadcast (PSB) Review Panel, set up in October 2010, on ways to enhance the quality, and maximise the reach, of PSB programmes.

The eight-member panel was chaired by Ms Grace Fu, Senior

Minister of State for Information, Communications and the Arts.

PSB programmes are primarily featured on MediaCorp's free-to-air TV and radio channels. Examples of the programmes, which drew a viewership of 4.3 million last year, include popular English and Chinese dramas like *The Pupil* and *Little Nyonya*.

The funding constitutes a 35 per cent increase from the \$470 million provided over the last five years, and is aimed at combating the drop in viewership of free-to-air television shows.

According to the annual Nielsen Media Index, the percentage of the resident population aged 15 and above who viewed free-to-air TV last year was 75 per cent – a drop from the 92 per cent in 2005.

Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, said: "Eye-

balls are shifting to other platforms (like the Internet and pay TV), so I think we cannot ignore that reality."

The scheme will support ventures into non-free-to-air platforms.

Even content produced for pay-TV platforms will be made available to the public, free of charge. MDA is in discussion with StarHub and MediaCorp on their participation in this scheme.

StarHub chief operating officer Tan Tong Hai said: "Being a local pay-TV provider with more than 50 per cent of households subscribing to our service... we can now tap into the fund (and) think about (the) **localisation** of (our) programmes."

MDA also hopes that, with funding open to industry players apart from MediaCorp, the competition induced will help raise the quality of PSB programmes produced.

Besides that, MediaCorp will initiate pilot **trailers** across its channels to gather public feedback before production for a particular series begins.

Also, funding rates for various stages of local PSB productions will be reviewed and adjusted. For instance, MDA will increase allocation of funds to boost quality in research, script-writing and story planning.

MDA added that the majority of the panel's recommendations will be implemented within a year.

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HELPDESK 我的字典

Broadcast: 广播 guǎng bō**Funding:** 资助 zī zhù**Localisation:** 本地化 běn dì huà**Trailers:** 预告片 yù gào piànSenior
Counsel to
represent
5 accused

FROM PAGE A1

Xtron.

With the exception of Kong, who is represented by Mr Edwin Tong from Allen & Gledhill, the four others who were charged earlier have made changes to their legal representation.

Chew has changed his lawyer to Senior Counsel Francis Xavier from Rajah & Tann.

The other three accused were represented by an additional lawyer each. They are Senior Counsel Kannan Ramesh from Tan Kok Quan Partnership, Kenneth Tan from Kenneth Tan Partnership and Chelva R. Rajah from Tan Rajah & Cheah.

At least 100 church supporters turned up in court yesterday, which had security and crowd-control measures stepped up from those at last month's hearing.

Before proceedings began at Court 26, an orderly queue of church supporters had formed outside, with court staff controlling the number of people who went in.

City Harvest declined to comment if Wee was still a church member, or held other church appointments.

But its spokesman said that Kong and Tan Ye Peng still preach in church actively.

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CHURCH SUPPORTERS MORE ORDERLY THIS TIME



THE PASTOR: Kong Hee (centre, in white shirt) leaving the Subordinate Courts yesterday. (PHOTOS: ONG WEE JIN)



SUPPORTERS AND ACCUSED: City Harvest Church churchgoers turned up at the Subordinate Courts. On the right is former finance director Serina Wee Gek Yin, who was charged yesterday.

CITY Harvest Church supporters were more orderly at the Subordinate Courts yesterday than on June 27 when church founding pastor Kong Hee and other church leaders were charged.

When Kong arrived at the court at 8.55am, there were only 10 churchgoers waiting outside.

But last month, there were at least five times more supporters.

As Kong left the court at about 9.15am after yesterday's hearing, there were only about

10 people walking with him, including his lawyer, Mr Edwin Tong, a partner at Allen & Gledhill and an MP for Moulmein-Kallang GRC.

They did not shove aside photographers and cameramen, nor did they shout at them.

This contrasted with the situation last month when about 20 churchgoers formed a human wall around him. They hurled insults at photographers and cameramen, and pushed them away.

Yesterday, about 10 people also walked with the other accused when they left the court, with little shoving and shouting.

There were six security officers at the front of the court, about two times more than usual.

All the accused were mostly calm when they arrived and left the court. At least 100 church supporters turned up.

MICHAEL ALLEN