

SENIOR APPOINTMENT CHANGES AT THE AGRI-FOOD AND VETERINARY AUTHORITY (AVA)

The Ministry of National Development (MND) and Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) announced today the following senior appointment changes at AVA:

- Ms Tan Poh Hong, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AVA will relinquish her current appointment on 1 October 2017.
- Mr Lim Kok Thai, currently Deputy Commissioner of Police (Policy), Singapore Police Force, will be appointed as CEO, AVA on 1 October 2017.

2 Under Ms Tan's leadership as CEO over the past 8 years, AVA has expanded beyond its regulatory role to strengthen Singapore's food security by building strong partnerships with the industry and other stakeholders. Through the Agriculture Productivity Fund and other initiatives, AVA transformed Singapore's local farming landscape, pushed agriculture innovation and supported private sector projects in urban food solutions. Through these efforts, Singapore's ranking in the Global Food Security Index climbed from 16th position in 2013 to 3rd position in 2016. Beyond food safety and security, Ms Tan also led AVA in reviewing and strengthening legislation to raise animal welfare standards in Singapore.

3 Prior to her appointment as CEO of AVA, Ms Tan had served in HDB for close to 28 years, culminating in her appointment as Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Estates & Corporate). Ms Tan played a key role in formulating key housing policies such as the Additional Housing Grant to help lower income families and the Lease Buyback Scheme as an additional monetisation option for elderly flat owners. She also played an instrumental role to reach out to the

community and key stakeholders for major HDB programmes such as the Main Upgrading Programme and Selective En bloc Redevelopment Scheme. Ms Tan also worked closely with the union in the restructuring of HDB in 2003.

4 Mr Lim first joined the Police Force in 1996 as an Assistant Superintendent of Police and has held various key appointments in the Singapore Police Force. These include Commander, Bedok Police Division and Director of Operations of the Singapore Police Force. He also served as Assistant Director in MND's Housing Division from 1999 to 2001 and Senior Director, National Security Coordination Centre, National Security Coordination Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office in 2014. Through his various postings, Mr Lim has gleaned a wealth of operational and policy experience. A more detailed write-up of Mr Lim is in the Annex.

5 MND would like to thank Ms Tan Poh Hong for her many years of dedicated service in the Singapore public service. At the same time, MND welcomes Mr Lim Kok Thai to AVA and the MND Family.

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Mr Lim Kok Thai



Mr Lim Kok Thai, aged 44, graduated in 1995 from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours) in Mathematics. He further obtained a Master of Science in Public Policy and Management (MSPPM) conferred by the Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College - School of Public Policy & Management in Pittsburgh, PA, USA in 2016.

2 Mr Lim is presently the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Policy), Singapore Police Force (SPF). Prior to his current appointment, he held several key appointments in SPF including the Director of Operations and Commander, Bedok Police Division. Mr Lim also served as the Senior Director, National Security Coordination Centre, National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS), Prime Minister's Office in 2014 and Assistant Director in MND HQ's Housing Division from 1999 to 2001.

3 As the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Policy), Mr Lim oversees the Staff Departments, ensuring that the different staff functions (including Planning, Manpower, Logistics, Training, Administration and Finance) are operating at the optimal level to support SPF's capability to prevent, deter and detect crime. Specifically, Mr Lim was involved in the planning and implementation of various initiatives to unify the Police Scheme of Service, optimise the deployment of Police National Service resources and strengthen Community Partnership. Mr

Lim also closely supervised the implementation of the Unified Police Scheme which among other initiatives, merged the junior and senior police officer schemes and created a new Expert Track for talented specialist police officers. Mr Lim also led the conceptualisation and planning, and ensured the successful execution of the Home Team Show and Festival on 6 May 2017, an inaugural event to showcase Home Team capabilities and to celebrate 50 years of National Service in the Home Team.

4 As the Director of Operations from 2009 to 2014, Mr Lim led and ensured the successful execution of police operations to protect various high profile events which included the inaugural Singapore Olympics Youth Game in 2010. He was also deeply involved in the development and implementation of the nation-wide Community Oriented Policing System (COPS) and the Police Camera Project (PolCam).

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