

MEDIA RELEASE

1 June 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING

CPE Filed Charges Against Former Manager of School of Applied Studies

1. The Council for Private Education (CPE) has filed charges with the Magistrate's Court against Mr Jeremy Low, former manager of the now defunct School of Applied Studies (SAS), for the following contraventions of the Private Education Act:

- Section 41(1)(a)(i) – Failure to perform the duties of a manager in keeping proper records
- Section 60(2)(a) – Failure to comply with a direction issued by the CPE to refund students
- Section 61(1)(a)(i) – Making a false statement to the CPE in furtherance of the SAS' EduTrust certification application

2. The punishment for each of the offences under Sections 41(1)(a)(i) and Section 60(2)(a) of the Act is a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both. The punishment for the offence under Section 61(1)(a)(i) of the Act is a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or both. In the case of a continuing offence, there is a further fine not exceeding \$1,000 for every day or part thereof during which the offences continue after conviction.

3. All private education institutions (PEIs) should seek to meet CPE's regulatory standards, to maintain public confidence in the Private Education sector. The CPE will not hesitate to take errant PEIs to task and take the appropriate enforcement action against a PEI or its managers for contravening the Private Education Act.

4. Background information on the SAS closure can be found in the **Annex**.

About the Council for Private Education

The Council for Private Education (CPE) is a statutory board established in December 2009 to regulate the private education industry. The Council has implemented two schemes – the mandatory Enhanced Registration Framework and the EduTrust Certification scheme – to uplift and maintain standards in the private education sector. Besides its role as a sectoral regulator, the Council also provides student services and public education through its Student Services Centre, and seeks to enhance the capabilities and quality of the private education sector. For more information, please visit the CPE website at <http://www.cpe.gov.sg/>.

Issued by the Council for Private Education

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ANNEX

1. The SAS had informed the CPE of its decision to cease operations on 20 October 2010 via email. Citing financial difficulties, SAS had sought the CPE's assistance to place out the students to other PEIs.
2. The CPE and SAS held a joint briefing with affected students on the evening of 20 October 2010. The students were briefed on place-out options, as well as administrative details such as procedures to claim outstanding course fees from insurance companies and ESCROW banks. The CPE then conducted a placement session on 28 October 2010.
3. In total, the CPE successfully helped to place 108 students in nine EduTrust-certified PEIs.