



High Court judge Steven Chong will succeed Mr Sundaresh Menon as Attorney-General from June 25.

## Changes in Appeal Court, A-G Chambers

By K.C. VIJAYAN

TWO of Singapore's top legal brains will move to key posts in what is seen as part of a renewal process in the judiciary.

High Court judge Steven Chong, 54, will become Attorney-General (A-G) from June 25, succeeding Mr Sundaresh Menon, 50, who will go on leave prior to his appointment as a Judge of Appeal from Aug 1.

Justice Chong, who has been a judge for three years, will serve two years as A-G in the first instance. He said the move marked a new chapter in his career.

"I spent more than 25 years in private practice before joining the Bench, and found my time on the Bench both extremely fulfilling and meaningful," he said.

He added that the A-G's office occupied a crucial role in the administration of justice, and bore immense responsibility as the Government's chief legal adviser.

He paid tribute to Mr Menon for having initiated numerous positive changes to the management and administration of the A-G's Chambers.

Mr Menon, who has been A-G for two years, said Justice Chong was well placed to take over. He said being A-G was the greatest privilege of his professional life and he looked forward to continuing in public service.

One more change announced by the Prime Minister's Office yesterday was that Senior Counsel Vinodh Coomaraswamy from Shook Lin & Bok would join the Bench as judicial commissioner.

In 1991, Oxford-educated Mr Vinodh, 47, was the first Singaporean to top the United Kingdom Bar exams.

He follows in his father's footsteps in becoming a High Court judge. The late Justice Punch Coomaraswamy served in the High Court between 1984 and 1993.

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