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Press Release

PERMANENT SECRETARY NATIONAL POPULATION AND TALENT DIVISION, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Mr Niam Chiang Meng, Permanent Secretary (Community Development, Youth and Sports), will be appointed Permanent Secretary (National Population and Talent Division), Prime Minister's Office with effect from 1 January 2011. This will be concurrent with his MCYS appointment.

The key function of the National Population and Talent Division (NPTD) is to formulate, coordinate and review whole of Government policies related to population and talent. NPTD's responsibilities will encompass three main policy areas that are currently under the purview of the National Population Secretariat, the National Integration Council and other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Manpower and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. These are: (i) population augmentation, (ii) talent attraction, immigration, naturalisation and integration; and (iii) engaging overseas Singaporeans. These policy issues have close linkages with one another. NPTD's formation will bring them together under one management and centre of responsibility, and enable policy responses to be considered and addressed more holistically.

As announced by the Prime Minister on 29 August 2010, the National Population and Talent Division will report to Deputy Prime Minister Wong Kan Seng.

Mr Niam, 52, joined the Administrative Service in 1983 after graduating from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Social Science degree in Economics. He obtained a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University in 1991.

Mr Niam served in various capacities in the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) and Ministry of Trade and Industry before he was seconded to the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in 1993. He held the position of Vice President (News), Television Corporation of Singapore from 1994 to 1997. In 1996, he was appointed Second Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Health. He was appointed Permanent Secretary (Information and the Arts) in 1997 and concurrently Permanent Secretary (Law) from March to December 2000. He was re-designated as Permanent Secretary (Information, Communications and the Arts) in November 2001. Mr Niam was the CEO, Housing and Development Board from 2002 to 2004 before he was appointed Permanent Secretary (Community Development, Youth and Sports) in January 2005.

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