

NEW HEADS FOR PA, LTA

'It's still all about people'

SINGAPORE — Going from overseeing the country's transport network to nurturing communal bonds may seem like a drastic change, but Mr Yam Ah Mee (picture) sees one important commonality in the two jobs.

"Public transport has always been about people," said the chief executive of the Land Transport Authority (LTA), who from June will serve as the People's Association's (PA) new chief executive director.

"In the LTA, we have worked very hard to put ourselves in commuters' shoes to better understand their needs and expectations. In the process, we know that in whatever we do, our job is about serving people better. The same holds true for the PA."

Mr Yam, a former Brigadier-General with the air force who has been LTA's chief executive since 2005, will be appointed PA's chief executive director-designate from



TODAY FILE PHOTO

May 1. He will take over fully from current PA head, Mr Tan Boon Huat, when the latter retires on June 1.

Mr Tan, a civil servant for over three decades, has served in the top PA post since 2002. He transformed the association with his visionary leadership, said a joint statement by PA, the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) and the Ministry of Transport.

Mr Tan re-branded and rejuvenated grassroots activities,

programmes and participation. He also helped strengthen the capabilities of the Community Development Councils to deliver ComCare assistance, it added.

Mr Yam's post at LTA will be filled for a three-month interim by Mr Lim Bok Ngam, deputy chief executive (Infrastructure and Development), as acting chief executive.

From Sept 1, Mr Chew Hock Yong, currently MCYS deputy secretary, will take over as LTA's chief executive.

Mr Chew credited Mr Yam for having done a "great job" and transforming LTA into "an organisation that puts people at the centre of everything it does. He will leave behind big shoes to fill".

Among Mr Yam's legacies: LTA's greater community engagement and outreach, and the 2008 Land Transport Master Plan which he helped conceptualise.