

# Deterrent Effect of Death Penalty in Singapore

The Government has the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of Singaporeans, while maintaining a fair and just criminal justice system. The rights of offenders, victims and Singaporeans need to be considered.

**The approach we have taken has resulted in Singapore being one of the safest places in the world to live.**

## Key Considerations when Applying the Death Penalty to an Offence

1

Seriousness of Offence

2

Frequency of Offence

3

Need for Deterrence

## Examples of Offences where Death Penalty is Imposed Include:



Intentional Murder



Gang Robbery with Murder



Terrorist Bombing



Use of Firearms



Kidnapping



\*Trafficking of Significant Quantities of Drugs

(\*The threshold amount of 15g of pure heroin is equivalent to 1,250 straws of heroin and feeds 180 abusers for a week.)

## Reduction in Serious Crime Rate Since Introduction of Death Penalty



Opium Trafficking

66% reduction in net weight of opium trafficking within 4 years.



Cannabis Trafficking

15-19% reduction in the probability that traffickers would choose to traffic above the capital sentence threshold in cannabis trafficking.



Firearms Robbery

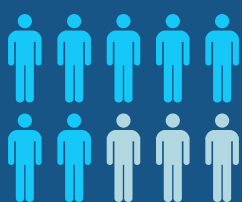
39% drop in firearm offences in 1974 (from 174 cases in 1973). None in past 13 years.



Kidnapping

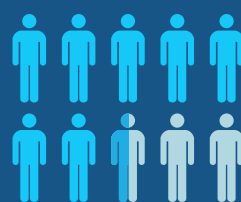
Generally less than 2 cases of kidnapping yearly from 1961 to date.

## Majority Agree that Death Penalty is More Effective as a Deterrent than Life Imprisonment



70%

Singaporeans\*\*



76%

Non-Singaporeans\*\*

agreed that the death penalty is more effective than life imprisonment as a deterrent for serious crimes (e.g. murder, firearms and drug trafficking).

(\*\*Based on 2019 survey by the Institute of Policy Studies conducted on residents; and a 2018 study conducted on non-Singaporeans.)

