

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

HOME TEAM PROMOTION CEREMONY

This year's Home Team promotion ceremony was held on 24 May to recognise 351 Home Team officers promoted to the **rank of Lieutenant Colonel or Superintendent and above, and equivalent grades in the VSC, CDAU and civilian schemes of service.**



In his speech, Guest-Of-Honour Minister K Shanmugam, spoke about the importance of upholding trust in the Home Team not just externally but within the organisation. He also shared about the various attempts made by external entities to undermine the Home Team's trust in the public sphere. Here are four key points that we should take note of:

1. Professional Officers

Home Team officers must be professional, competent, have strong values to do the right thing and always keep the interests of Singaporeans and the nation at the core of their actions. Minister also reminded officers to do their duties without fear or favour and have the highest standards of integrity.

2. Open and Forward Communications

Maintain a good public perception of the Home Team by being open about sharing stories of our officers and our work. The public can then relate better to the work we do, be aware of myths and understand what we do to keep Singapore safe and secure.

3. High Standards, Rigorous Internal Processes

As officers charged with upholding the law, we must hold ourselves to even higher standards of conduct. Errant officers will be taken to task, while we will stand up for officers quickly and firmly when they are attacked unfairly.



4. Prevent Malicious Actors' Attempts to Erode the Public's Trust in the Home Team

In this era where social media, generative AI and deepfakes can be easily exploited, we need to call out falsehoods cast by malicious actors and defend our actions so that misperceptions don't take root.

An **estimated 6,158 officers from across the Home Team** were promoted this year. They comprise 3,820 regular officers from the Home Team Departments and statutory boards, 2,254 Operationally-Ready National Servicemen (ORNSmen) from the Singapore Police Force and Singapore Civil Defence Force, as well as about **84 members from VSC and CDAU.**

Congratulations to all promotes, especially to our VSC and CDAU volunteers!

>> [Read Min's speech](#)



The Online Criminal Harms Bill (OCHB) was introduced for First Reading in Parliament on 8 May. It enables the Government to better protect the public from harms in the online space by: 1) taking swift action against criminal activities carried out online; and 2) proactively disrupting scams and malicious cyber activities before they harm more victims.

>> [Read the press release](#)

Key Features of OCHB

Government Directions Against Specified Criminal Offences

OCHB will allow the Government to issue Directions to any online service through which criminal activities could be conducted, and will be applicable to criminal offences specified in the First Schedule of the Bill.

When there is reasonable suspicion that an online activity is being carried out to commit a crime, Government Directions may be issued.

Illustrations Of How Directions May Work:

Criminal Activity Occurs Online

- Stop Communication Direction:** Communicator of criminal content to remove the criminal content so that it is not accessible by persons in Singapore.
- Disabling Direction:** Online service provider to **disable access** to the criminal content by persons in Singapore.
- Account Restriction Direction:** Online service provider to **restrict the account** which is propagating the criminal content, from interacting with persons in Singapore.

Criminal Activity Is Posted On A Website

- Access Blocking Direction:** Internet Service Provider to **disable access** to the website by persons in Singapore.

Criminal Activity Is Facilitated Via An App

- App Removal Direction:** App store to **remove the app from the Singapore storefront** so that persons in Singapore cannot download the app.

Key Features of OCHB

Proactive Prevention of Scams and Malicious Cyber Activities

OCHB will allow Government Directions to be issued **when it is suspected** that any website, online account or online activity may be used for scams or malicious cyber activities.

The lower threshold for taking action enables the Government to disrupt scams and malicious cyber activities before anyone falls prey.

When there is suspicion:
Government Directions
 Set Up 9:21 am
 Visit Site 9:40 am
 SMS Broadcast 9:39 am

SCAMMER → **VICTIM**

Key Features of OCHB

Codes of Practice and Directives

OCHB creates a framework to **strengthen partnership with online services** to counter scams and malicious cyber activities.

- Codes of Practice:** Set Baseline Standards
- Implementation Directives:** Require Specific Measures When Deemed Necessary

Purposes of the Codes

- Promote Proactive Sensemaking & Partnerships
- Prevent Scams and Malicious Cyber Activities on Services
- Support Enforcement

Under this framework, the Government can require designated online services to proactively disrupt scams and malicious cyber activities affecting people in Singapore.

Requirements will be set out in the form of Codes of Practice which will be issued by a Competent Authority, who will be responsible for administering the Act.

The **Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) (Amendment) Bill** and the **Computer Misuse (Amendment) Bill** were passed in Parliament on 9 May. The amendments promote **public vigilance and responsible behaviour in the use of payment and Singpass accounts**. The amendments also seek to **disrupt the operations of criminal syndicates** preying on Singaporeans and will **empower the Police to better act** against money mules, and those who abuse Singpass to perpetrate scams and other crimes.

>> [Read the Second Reading Speech](#) and the [Wrap-Up Speech](#)

HOME TEAM UPDATES

FIGHTING THE SCOURGE OF DRUGS

According to the **Health and Lifestyle Survey 2022** conducted by the Institute of Mental Health on 6,509 randomly selected Singapore residents, **Singapore’s approach of strict laws and preventive drug education has been effective in keeping our people away from drugs**. However, the **mean age of onset of drug abuse among the respondents was 15.9 years old**, and **half the drug abusers abused drugs at their own or a friend’s home**. These worrying findings were shared at

CNB's Workplan Seminar on 3 May, which Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Mr Teo Chee Hean, graced as Guest-of-Honour.



In his speech, Mr Teo called on **more community partners to work with CNB in educating the public, parents, and especially youths, on the harms of drugs and countering the misinformation and proliferation of liberal drug views.**

At the seminar, strategic partners pledged their support for a drug-free Singapore, and CNB's adult and youth advocates also showed up in support to share with seminar participants about their anti-drug efforts.



“We all have a part to play in educating our youths on the harms of drugs, correcting misinformation about drugs, and being firm anti-drug advocates within our own social circles.” - Mr Teo Chee Hean, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security

FORWARD CORRECTIONS: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

This year's SPS-YRSG Corporate Advance highlighted the **importance of community partnership to help inmates and ex-offenders achieve long-term desistance after their release from prison.** In his address, Guest-of-Honour Minister Mr K Shanmugam spoke about Singapore's community corrections approach, where about 3,000 supervisees benefited from aftercare supervision under SPS and YRSG. He also **launched the Book “Correctional Rehabilitation and Psychological Interventions in Singapore: Practitioners’ Experience in Singapore Prison Service”, which shares anecdotal experiences in rehabilitation and working with different groups of offenders.**



Here are some **key initiatives** that SPS and YRSG are working on:

- **Volunteer Case Officer (VCO) Scheme**

Under this recently launched Scheme, SPS will recruit and train volunteers with social service knowledge and background to provide case management support to supervisees on Community-based Programmes. SPS has thus far recruited 50 VCOs and intends to grow this pool of volunteers.

- **TAP & Grow Initiative**

Following the successful implementation of TAP (Train and Place) & Grow in the Precision Engineering, Media and Logistics sectors, YRSG announced the expansion of the initiative to the Food Services sector. About 700 inmates are expected to benefit from Food & Beverage training in prison, with opportunities to continue training after their release.

- **Grow Movement**

After the implementation of TAP & Grow in the food services sector, YRSG will initiate a post-release partial training sponsorship scheme under the Grow Movement. This scheme aims to motivate and provide initial support for ex-offenders to progress in the skills ladder of their chosen career, enabling them to develop to their fullest potential. The skills upgrading pathway will be determined in consultation with the respective trade associations and employers, and include qualifications up to Diploma-level.

- **YR Sandbox**

Complementing the TAP & Grow initiative is a new alternative pathway called the YR Sandbox. The initiative offers career opportunities to inmates in emerging and fast-growing sectors such as the Digital economy, Green economy and Built environment. YRSG will thus form partnerships with

trade industries, employers and training providers to offer training and induction programmes for ex-offenders.



“We have to see how we can break the cycle of reoffending, and I think one of the ways is to try and give support for ex-inmates over a longer period. This means partnerships with the community, and partnerships with the family.” -

MIN K Shanmugam

[>> Read MIN’s speech](#)

NEW WAYS TO PREVENT OFFENDING AND REOFFENDING WITHIN THE MM COMMUNITY



The Malay/Muslim Organisation (MMO) Rehabilitation Network Forum 2023 was held on 23 May to **launch the network’s inaugural workplan. Co-developed by MHA, SPS, CNB, and Network members over a period of about six months**, the workplan charts the Network’s way forward for the next two

years. The Network will adopt **three new strategies to advance efforts in preventing offending and reoffending within the MM community: 1. Create familiarity amongst MMOs; 2. Leverage each other’s strengths and expertise; and 3. Enhance the capability and capacity of each MMO within the Network.**



Guest-of-Honour MIN Masagos Zulkifli said in his speech that the **two-year recidivism rate for Malay offenders today (24.7%) is about half of what it was 20 years ago (48.4%).** “We must continue the good work and join hands as a community to better serve ex-offenders,” he added.

Attendees heard about SPS’ efforts in working with MMOs to provide rehabilitation support to offenders and participated in a focus group discussion on building upon CNB’s efforts in engaging and educating the MM community on drug prevention under the Dadah Itu Haram campaign.



In his closing speech, MOS Faishal said that the **number of new Malay drug abusers arrested has dropped by more than half over the past three years.** While it is very good progress, Malays are still overly represented – both in the total number of drug abusers and the number of new drug abusers arrested. He urged Network members to continue educating the community on the harms of drug abuse.

[>> Read MOS Faishal’s speech](#)

PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID TRAINING FOR SGSECURE RESPONDERS



On 6 May, SGSecure Programme Office, Singapore Red Cross and Temasek Foundation launched the inaugural psychological first aid (PFA) training programme for SGSecure Responders. The launch event was graced by MOS Sun Xueling. Over the next three years, **1,500 SGSecure Responders will be trained**, with Temasek Foundation’s sponsorship.





Terrorism threatens not only our physical safety but also our psychological safety. Through PFA, we hope to **strengthen our community psychosocial support in crises or peacetime emergencies**. Thanks to Singapore Red Cross and Temasek Foundation for partnering us.

Join as a Responder today: <https://go.gov.sg/sgsecure-be-a-responder>.

>> [Read more about the PFA launch](#)

>> [Read MOS' speech](#)

A FUTURE-READY FORCE FOR THE NATION

At the SPF Workplan Seminar and Exhibition on 12 May, Police unveiled initiatives that leverage technology to succeed in a rapidly evolving landscape.

Enhancing Response to Public Order and Public Security Incidents

Minister Shanmugam commissioned the **Tactical Strike Vehicle**, which lets Rapid Deployment Troops swiftly punch through the public security incident to neutralise the threat. To detect and stop unauthorised drones at major events, Police can deploy a **Counter Drone System**. Both the counter drone system and vehicle were jointly developed with HTX.



Augmenting Frontline Policing

Two autonomous Patrol Robots have been deployed at Changi Airport Terminal 4 since April 2023, serving as additional eyes on the ground. SPF will progressively deploy patrol robots in more public areas across Singapore. Separately, the **Automated Armoury System** being developed by SPF, CNB and HTX allows officers to perform self-withdrawal and return of their sidearms. The system will be capable of detecting and responding to lapses, which would improve the governance of armaments.



Enhancing Service Delivery and Community Engagement



Found-Property Dropbox and Self-Help Kiosk which are found in Redesigned NPPs will be found in redesigned NPCs as well. It will improve the efficiency of Police operations, optimise resources, and serve the community better, by leveraging technology. Woodleigh NPC is the first redesigned NPC, opening in July 2023. **By 2024, SPF aims to achieve end-to-end digitalisation of all Police services.** To enhance community engagement through interesting ways, SPF's new **Community Engagement Robot ("Cody")** will be trialled in the coming months at selected police stations before further rollout. SPF also highlighted that the **Scam Public Education Office** set up earlier this year will drive scam public education and awareness efforts.



During the seminar, Minister Shanmugam's keynote speech noted that **93% of Singaporeans had trust and confidence in the Police Force**. He also mentioned that **Police should not, and cannot be used as a tool for politics, or as scapegoats by political leadership**. Police should be neutral and independent, and not to be used for political purposes.

>> [Read Min's speech](#)

STAY SAFE FROM INVESTMENT SCAMS

Investment scams have been the **third most prevalent scam** for the past two months. How can you stay safe?



Be wary of befriending strangers on social media platforms who promise to make you rich or offer unreasonably high investment returns



Check with a licensed financial advisor before making any investments, or check on the company and its representatives using resources on the MAS website



Understand what you're investing in

Investment Scam: Real Story

"I met a guy on CMB and we chatted on the app before moving to WhatsApp. **After chatting daily** for 2-3 weeks, he started **sharing about the investments** he made and **created an account for me to invest privately**. He gave me links and a guide on how to use the website, which was related to Guocoland projects. He **claimed it was a real deal** and asked me to **upgrade my membership tier by topping up money**. I almost fell for it, but after reading similar stories, I blocked him."

>> [Read more real stories of investment scams](#)

NEW TRENDING SCAMS

Here are three scams that are newly trending in the past month.



Phishing Scams Through Malware

To facilitate payment for a product or service you saw online, you are asked to click on a link and download an application from an unknown source.

ADD ScamShield app on mobile phone to block scam calls and filter scam SMSes. Only download and install applications from official application stores (i.e., Apple Store or Google Play Store).



Property Rental Scams

After viewing property rental deals on various advertisement sites, the "agent" asks for payment (deposit) even before physical viewing of the property.

CHECK the agent's advertised phone number in the property listing on CEA's Public Register. If the phone number is not registered with CEA, it is likely a scam!



Concert Ticket Scams

Third-party resellers on online platforms offer concert tickets. The tickets are usually sold out or in very limited quantities from the authorised seller.

CHECK the Transaction Safety Rating for platform ratings at <https://www.mha.gov.sg/e-commerce-marketplace-transaction-safety-ratings> when transacting online.

WHO IS THIS?



Got a call from a government official? Think again!

Victims receive a phone call or in-app call (e.g. WhatsApp).

The "government official" may even don uniforms to appear legitimate. For example, **this "SPF officer" is a scammer who was in an in-app call.**

The "government official" convinces victims to provide their banking credentials, OTPs and/ or personal details by claiming that they were involved in crimes.

Soon enough, victims find unauthorised transactions made to their bank account....

Don't fall prey to such scams! No government agencies will ask for your banking credentials, OTPs or require you to transfer your money to another bank account.

>> [Read real victims' stories here](#)

HOME TEAM INSIGHTS

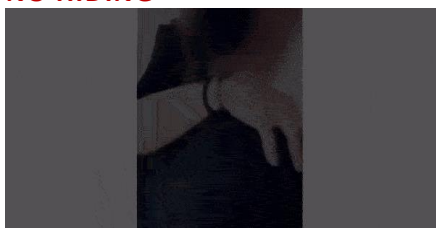
IN CONVERSATION



Community stakeholders who work actively with youths discussed what the community can do to keep youths safe from scams.

>> <https://go.gov.sg/spf-280423>

NO HIDING



Take a peek into what happens during a search-and-seizure of drug items in a drug offender's residential unit.

>> <https://go.gov.sg/cnb-040523>

DRUGFREESG CARNIVAL



Visit the DrugFreeSG Carnival with your family and friends and learn to stay drug-free through creating memories and shared experiences.

>> <http://www.cnb.gov.sg/drugfreesg2023>

GOT A MINUTE?

Thank you for reading our HT Connects newsletter! 😊

Any feedback on this month's HT Connects issue? Let us know by scanning the QR Code or email us at MHA_HTVOLUNTEERS@mha.gov.sg



Have a story to share? Connect with Us



One Home, One Team – Together We Keep Our Home Safe and Secure



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